UN Chronicle

June 1990
Volume XXVII, Number 2

Preview: Eighth Crime Congress

Department of Public Information
United Nations

'The Drama of Order vs. Chaos'

Cover Illustration: When Moscow-born Maxim Zhukov was asked to design a *UN Chronicle* cover on the global struggle against crime, he chose abstraction over such well-worn symbols as handcuffs, prison bars anc fingerprints. "I tried to visualize law versus crime as a dramatic struggle between order and chaos", says Mr. Zhukov, Chief of the UN Graphic Presentation Unit. He is primarily responsible for the new look in the magazine's covers, working with the Unit's design team—in particular Olga Ainagas, Felicity Yost and Jim Eschinger.

"There's conflict in both the structure and the texture of the design—clean geometrical bars fighting messy, spontaneously shaped graffiti, perfectly smooth colour surfaces hurt by graffiti's rough, dripping edges," Mr. Zhukov explained. He cites two sources of inspiration: early Russian constructivism, particularly the work of El Lissitzky, and simple observation of the big city environment. Although acknowledged by some as a modern art form, graffiti, he says, is also for many the subconscious symbol of a kind of vandalism which mars the urban landscape.

Published quarterly in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
Department of Public Information
New York

Under-Secretary-General for Public Information: Thérèse P. Sévigny.
Editor-in-Chief: Betty Flynn-Connors.
Editors: Victor Nagaitchouk, Ghulam Ahmed Nanji, Ana María Simo.
Editorial Assistants: Annette Ifill, Herminia Roque, Teresita Q. Victoria.
Production staff: Laura Frischeisen, Patrice Lerochereuil, Arnaldo Ponce.
French edition: Marc Chalamet.
BookWatch: Harold Fruchtbaum.
Cover design by Graphic Presentation Unit (DCS).

The *UN Chronicle* (USPS 647-380) is published quarterly by the United Nations Department of Public Information in New York. Not an official record. All material may be freely reprinted but acknowledgement is requested. A copy of the publication containing reprinted material should be sent to *UN Chronicle*, United Nations, Room DC1-530, New York 10017. All editorial correspondence should be forwarded to the same address.

Subscriptions should be sent to United Nations Publications, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017. The subscription is US $14 for one year, $26 for two years, and $37 for three years, or equivalent in other currencies. Postmaster, send address changes to United Nations Publications, United Nations, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017. Second class postage paid at New York and additional mailing offices.

Know

the

facts

Get the

UN

Chronicle

Quarterly

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE U.S.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 00459 NEW YORK N.Y.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

United Nations Publications
Room DC2-868 · Dept. 505
United Nations, NY 10164-0512

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE U.S.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 00459 NEW YORK N.Y.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

United Nations Publications
Room DC2-868 · Dept. 505
United Nations, NY 10164-0512

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE U.S.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 00459 NEW YORK N.Y.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

United Nations Publications
Room DC2-868 · Dept. 505
United Nations, NY 10164-0512

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
UN CHRONICLE

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

New Subscriptions will begin 1 January 1990

☐ 1 Yr. $14.00 ☐ 2 Yrs. $26.00 ☐ 3 Yrs. $37.00

☐ Payment enclosed Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Acct. No._____Exp._____ Date_____

Minimum for a charge order $15.00
If not charged, payment must accompany the order

MAKE ME AN INFORMED WORLD CITIZEN

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
UN CHRONICLE

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

New Subscriptions will begin 1 January 1990

☐ 1 Yr. $14.00 ☐ 2 Yrs. $26.00 ☐ 3 Yrs. $37.00

☐ Payment enclosed Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Acct. No._____Exp._____ Date_____

Minimum for a charge order $15.00
If not charged, payment must accompany the order

MAKE ME AN INFORMED WORLD CITIZEN

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
UN CHRONICLE

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

New Subscriptions will begin 1 January 1990

☐ 1 Yr. $14.00 ☐ 2 Yrs. $26.00 ☐ 3 Yrs. $37.00

☐ Payment enclosed Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Acct. No._____Exp._____ Date_____

Minimum for a charge order $15.00
If not charged, payment must accompany the order

MAKE ME AN INFORMED WORLD CITIZEN

READEX FICHE

The U N

Chronicle

A quarterly magazine that reports on:

- **Namibia**
- **Arms Control & Reduction**
- **Iran - Iraq**
- **World Economy**
- **Afghanistan**
- **Human Rights**
- **Environment**
- **Development**
- **and more...**

The UN Chronicle required reading for people who want to understand what's happening in the world today.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

UN CHRONICLE

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

VOLUME XXVII Number 2 June 1990

CONTENTS

January — March 1990

Independent at last: Namibia free (p.4)

Special section: Anti-drug abuse Assembly (pp.53-60)

COVER STORY: (pp.41-52)
Preview: Eighth UN Crime Congress

- *Closing the gaps* (p.45)
- *To humanize justice* (p.46)
- *Crime mocks frontiers* (p.48)
- *Crime doesn't pay* (p.51)
- *Rebels or delinquents?* (p.52)

Political developments

Central America (p.15)...Cambodia (p.18)...Western Sahara (p.20)...Iran-Iraq (p.21)...Afghanistan (p.23)...Middle East (p.24)...Cyprus (p.27), Falklands (Malvinas) (p.28)

Other news

Decolonization (p.28)...Trusteeship Mission (p.29)...Conference on Disarmament (p.30)...Special Committee on Charter (p.32)...Outer space achievements (p.35)...Law of the Sea (p.38)...Poll on UN awareness (p.40)...ILO news (p.61)...Commission on Human Rights (p.62)...Women's issues (p.68)...Economic news (p.70)...Africa recovery efforts (p.72)

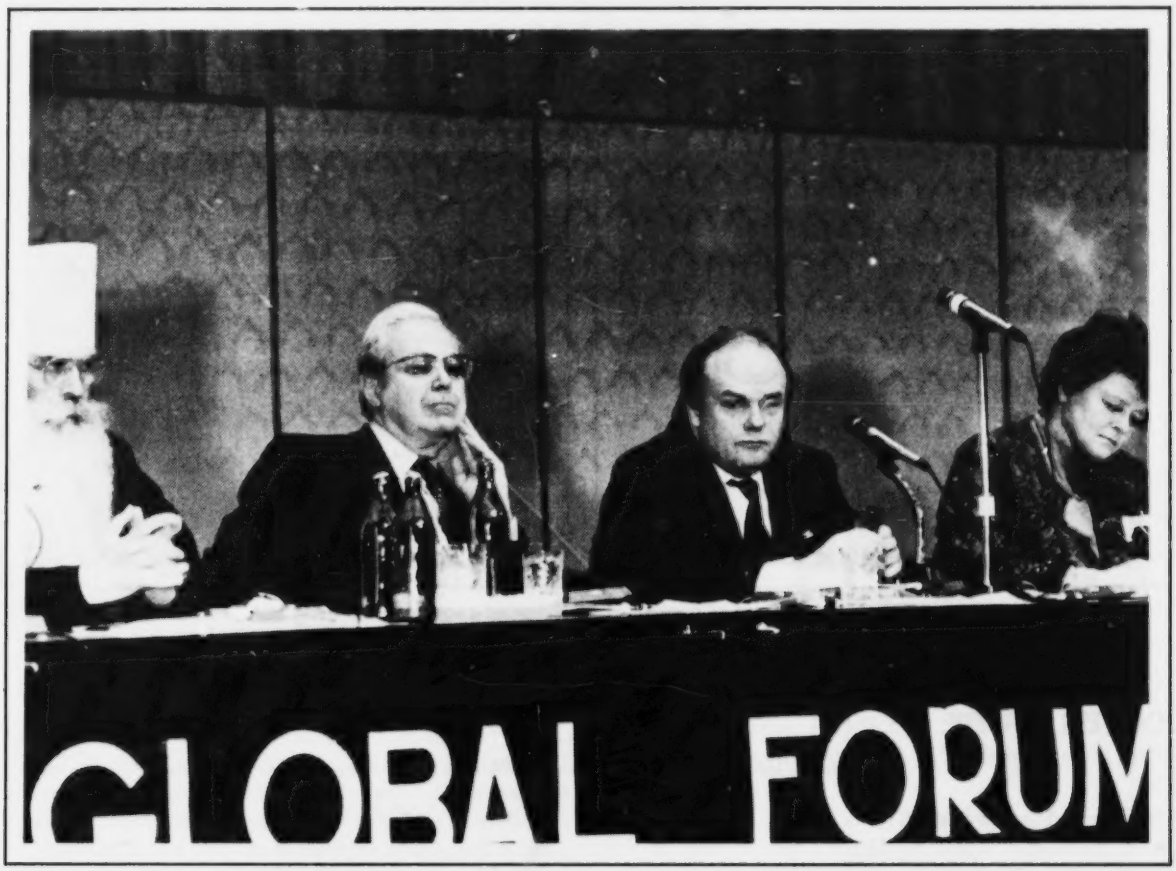
Features: Operation Salam—To build a future (p.22)
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights—for children (p.67)
'Woman Free' (p.69)

IN EVERY ISSUE

The 38th Floor (p.2)
Anti-*Apartheid* Notes (p.13)
A Look Back—History of UNITAR (p.74)
News Almanac (p.76)
BookWatch (p.78)
Stamp Corner (p.79)
Coming Up (p.80)

THE 38th FLOOR

Excerpts from statements by UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar made between 1 January and 31 March 1990



TASS Photo/A. Santsov

The inalienable right to choose. . .

This forum is being held at a time of radical change and an improved political climate. The relationship between the major Power blocs is no longer one of studied hostility. Their policies are no longer bent and warped by the crushing weight of frozen fears and chronic suspicion. The principle that each nation has the inalienable right to choose its political and economic system is being accorded full respect in Europe. This gratifying change can be rightly ascribed to the working of myriad forces in international life—political, economic and psychological. Not the least among them, however, are the vision and the new thinking articulated with clarity and courage by the leadership of the Soviet Union. The historic moment at which we stand has, I hope, brought to all concerned a clearer realization of what security actually implies. The recognition that polarization at the global level was a formula for constant insecurity should mark the beginning and not the end of the process of building genuine, stable peace.

To the Global Forum on Environment and Development for Survival, Moscow, 15 January

The crucial role of women...

This year, as we celebrate International Women's Day on the theme of "Women and the environment", there is a new awareness of the crucial part women can and do play in the global community: their critical role in the family, their economic contribution to agriculture and industry, and their creative and practical achievements in the realms of enterprise, science and the arts. Women are also increasingly in the vanguard in espousing issues of national and international concern. Their contribution towards enhancing awareness of the threat posed to our planet by the degradation of the environment is but one example. While significant progress is being made, especially in terms of the increased recognition of the role of women, their potential for active participation in society has not yet been fully realized. In industrialized countries, women all too often play multiple roles with little or no adequate support services, such as childcare, and with limited share in political decision-making. In developing countries, the contribution of women needs to be far more closely integrated into national development strategies. On this International Women's Day, let us renew our commitment to the advancement of women and redouble our efforts to transform our commitment into reality.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March

By popular demand...

You convene at an extraordinary moment in contemporary history. The transnational communication of peoples' ideas has accelerated exponentially in the last decade. All over the world, and regardless of ideology or education or economic circumstance, people—especially young people—are drawing inspiration from each other and voicing their concerns on a variety of issues. The sheer example of one popular demand becomes, by itself, a new motive force for others in neighbouring or even distant countries to express their wish for a greater share in governance and in the management of economic and social development.

To the Conference on Popular Participation in the Process of Recovery and Development in Africa, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 12 February

'Our common vulnerability...'

The interdependence of nations and the interrelation of issues facing them in the world of today is widely recognized... We stand at the beginning of a new era in organization and management which must squarely address the global interaction between such diverse elements as food, energy, population, environment and economic activities of all kinds. Our common vulnerability extends from the regional and national levels down to local communities and individuals. Appropriate response strategies and measures will need to take this fully into account... Out of our collective efforts can emerge a new appreciation of who is our neighbour; a profound awareness that dire poverty and mindless consumerism cannot continue to co-exist without disastrous consequences; and a commitment to constructive and healthy change.

To the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, New York, 5 March

Against repugnant practices...

Few practices are more repugnant to the values cherished by civilized man than those of racial discrimination. The United Nations, since its inception, has contributed consistently to the elimination of such practices. It has worked with vigour to support social change to end them in all parts of the world.

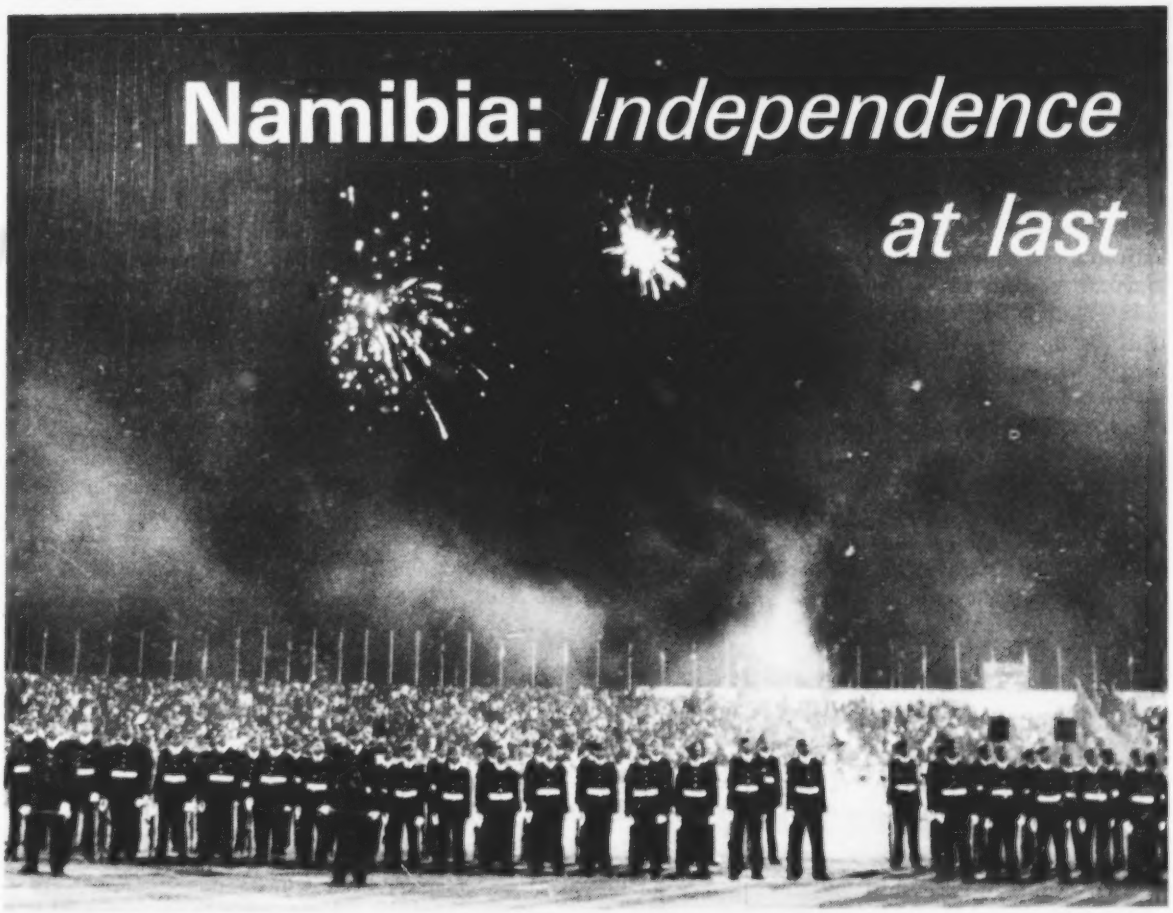
On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, New York, 21 March

Remembering Collett and Higgins

At a time when the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly those which uphold human rights, are increasingly being reaffirmed, the practice of holding innocent people hostage becomes all the more reprehensible... Our thoughts and prayers go to Alec Collett, to "Rich" Higgins, to their families and to all the innocent people taken captive in Lebanon. It is my fervent hope that the ordeal of the hostages will soon be brought to an end, and that they will be safely reunited with their families.

To a solemn meeting held 23 March by the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the abduction of UN staff member Alec Collett, New York, 23 March

Namibia: *Independence at last*



UN Photo 157259

The world's youngest independent nation was born shortly after midnight on 21 March as Namibia's flag was raised—a bright yellow sun on a blue, red, green and white background—and the national anthem was sung before a jubilant crowd of 30,000 packing the sports stadium in the capital city of Windhoek.

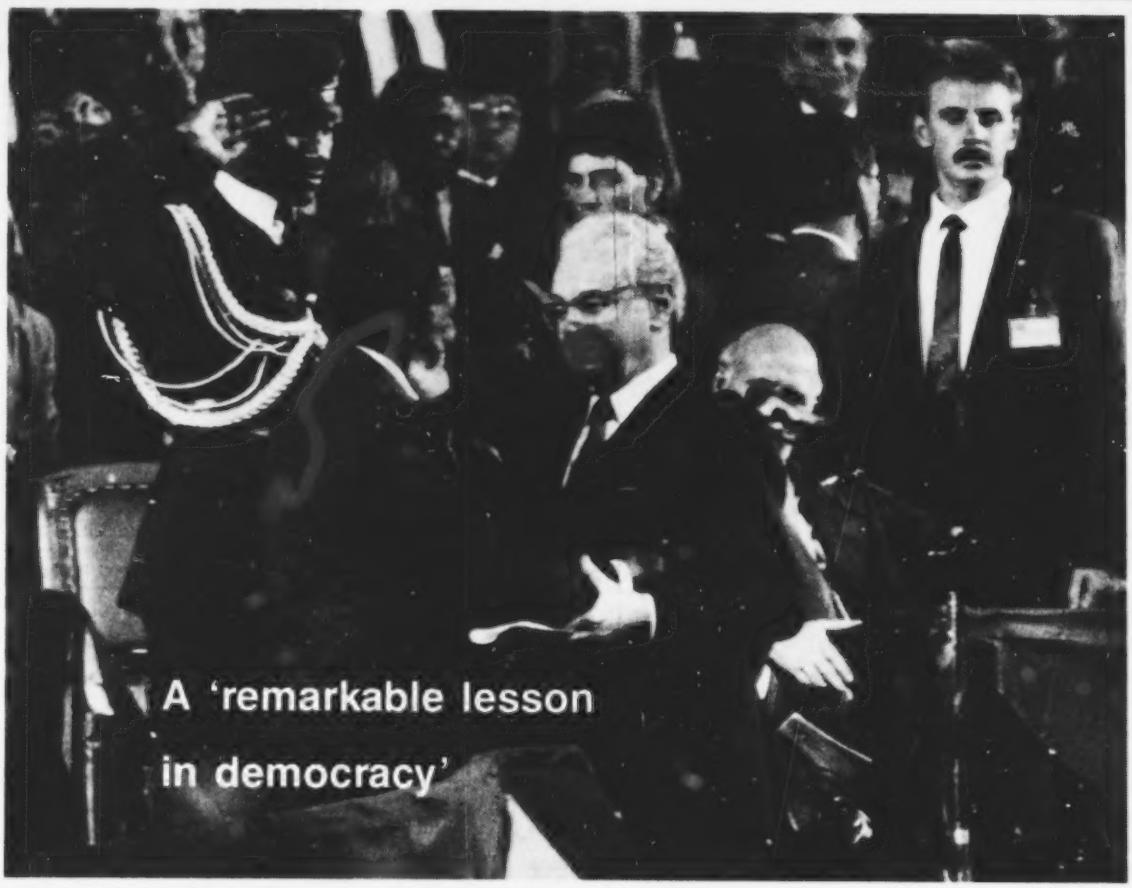
The crowd, which included hundreds of dignitaries from some 70 countries, grew attentive as they witnessed UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar swear in Namibia's first President, Sam Nujoma.

A joyful explosion welcomed independence: fireworks were set off, church bells pealed, cars horns honked, people sang and danced in the streets.

President Nujoma smiled broadly. As the leader of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), he had struggled for 24 years to see this day come to pass.

"The whole world, especially Africa, rejoices with Namibia", Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had said moments earlier. "What is a triumph for Namibia is a triumph for Africa and, indeed, for the principles that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations."

The inauguration ceremony—which capped the year-long transition to independence, a process supervised each step of the way by



A 'remarkable lesson in democracy'

UN Photo

the United Nations—represented, he said, "the culmination of the struggle for national dignity and independence of many generations of Namibians". Numerous lives had been sacrificed in seeking the goal now reached, he added.

"In the name of our people, I declare that Namibia is forever free, sovereign and independent", said Mr. Nujoma, who on 16 February had been unanimously elected for a five-year term as President by the Namibian Constituent Assembly.

"As of today, we are masters of this pastoral land of our ancestors. The destiny of our country is now in our own hands", he said, adding: "Africa's last colony is, from this hour, liberated".

Mr. Nujoma hailed South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk's "statesmanship and realism" in withdrawing from Namibia. He hoped that such an attitude would "continue to unfold in South Africa itself".

A few minutes earlier, President de Klerk, who was invited to speak by the new Namibian Government and shared the podium with Mr. Nujoma and Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, had stated: "I stand here tonight as an advocate of peace. The season of violence has passed for Namibia and for the whole of southern Africa."

His country extended "a hand of friendship" to its new neighbours, he said, urging that the bitterness of the past be put aside. "Good neighbourliness is in our mutual interest", he said. Then a solemn-looking Mr. de Klerk stood erect, his hand over his heart, as the orange, white and blue South African flag was lowered by uniformed South Africa Defense Force soldiers.

The former German colony, administered by South Africa since 1920, was expected soon to become the 160th Member State of the United Nations. (It did so on 23 April 1990.) The UN Council for Namibia had been the Territory's legal administrator since 1967 after the General Assembly in 1966 revoked South Africa's rights over the vast, mineral-rich land.

UN to support "nation building"

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar promised the full support of the United Nations to Namibia "in the challenging task of nation-building".

The Organization would convene an international conference in June to mobilize financial aid for the new African republic, he said.

In his speech at the inauguration, he expressed appreciation to the South African Government, its Administrator-General in Namibia, Louis Pienaar, and SWAPO for their co-operation during the past year.

He expressed admiration for Mr. Nujoma's statemanship, which had transformed him from "dauntless party leader" to a leader of a new nation. All the political parties and the people of Namibia had given the world "a remarkable lesson in democracy", Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stated.

The 8,000-strong United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)—the international overseer of the independence process—had been "a unique operation", he said. It had "broken much new ground", successfully monitoring the procedures leading to free and fair elections for a Constituent Assembly.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar paid tribute to Martti Ahtisaari, his Special Representative in Namibia, Mr. Ahtisaari's Deputy, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, and UNTAG military force Commander, General Prem Chand. He also expresssed "deep gratitude" to the women and men from more than 100 countries who had served in UNTAG and to the UN staff members at UN Headquarters in New York who had "devotedly and cheerfully" covered for them.

Earlier that day at the sports stadium, the Secretary-General had attended the swearing in of Namibia's first multiracial cabinet. The new Prime Minister is Hage Geingob, Mr. Nujoma's campaign manager, and the first foreign Minister is Theo Ben Gurirab, who had served as SWAPO representative at Headquarters for many years.

Dr. Otto Herrigel, a white businessman is Minister of Finance, in charge of the economy. The attorney general is Hartmut Ruppel, a white human rights activist.

UN Photo

'The destiny of our country is now in our own hands'—President Nujoma.

During his five-day stay in Namibia, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar met with more than a dozen world leaders, and other important political figures, including recently released South African black activist Nelson Mandela. The Secretary-General also reviewed an UNTAG military parade.

"I think that it is the duty of our Organization and the whole United Nations system to help Namibia consolidate its independence, to achieve stability, both political and economic, and to achieve rapid progress", the Secretary-General stated at a press conference after attending the 22 March opening of the UN Centre in Namibia, which will house the Organization's development agencies.

UN Photo

South Africa's President de Klerk congratulating President Nujoma.

For Pérez de Cuéllar, a tight schedule

During his tightly-scheduled stay in Namibia, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar hustled through a daunting array of high-powered political meetings, inauguration ceremonies and receptions, press conferences and private briefings.

It was, as usual, more a working than a ceremonial trip. His presence in Namibia represented more than eight years of personal diplomatic efforts to help secure Namibia's independence. It was clear that he not only enjoyed the inauguration festivities, but was deeply moved by them.

However, he managed to use every available moment to advance the various political issues on his agenda. He strenuously lobbied for a strong economic future for Namibia and a remedy for the continuing situation of *apartheid* in South Africa. He also prodded for progress on Western Sahara, Central America, the Middle East, Cambodia and other hot spots.

On arrival at Windhoek International Airport, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar praised "the Namibian model" for democracy in action, tolerance and political maturity.

After arriving on 19 March, the Secretary-General received his first visitor—President-elect Nujoma, who thanked him personally and the UN for helping guide his country to independence. Mr. Nujoma also informed the Secretary-General of his Government's future plans, especially in the economic field.

They discussed the lifting of a "ban on oil and other goods destined for Namibia", imposed by the General Assembly when the Territory was still under South African administration.

UN Photo

Mr. Mandela *(left)* with the Secretary-General.

The next day, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar met with many of the world leaders who had come to Windhoek for the independence ceremonies. He spoke with United States Secretary of State James Baker, South Africa's State President de Klerk, Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernández Ordoñez and United States political figure Jesse Jackson, among others. Before the midnight inauguration ceremonies, he attended a reception and dinner given by Namibia's Administrator-General Pienaar.

Thinking Namibia's future

Over the next two days—21 and 22 March—the Secretary-General discussed Namibia's future with India's Prime Minister V.P. Singh, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as the head of the Japanese delegation, Tadashi Kuranari.

Emergency and relief aid were the main topics of discussion with Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Fisseha Desta, Vice-President of Ethiopia.

He was briefed by Thorvald Stoltenberg, new UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and met with Romania's Foreign Minister Sergiu Celac and Yugoslavia's President Janez Drnovsek.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Kazi Kafar Ahmed, paid a courtesy call at noon on 22 March. Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, called next, and after him, Salim A. Salim, Secretary-General of the OAU.

By mid-afternoon on 22 March, South African political leader Nelson Mandela had arrived to discuss with the Secretary-General his thoughts on recent measures taken by the South African Government. A UN spokesman said later that the two men had reviewed the role of the United Nations in South Africa, what progress could be made there and the general situation in southern Africa.

Later that afternoon, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's met with Mohamed Abdelaziz, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), and with Lieutenant Colonel Kane, who headed the Mauritanian delegation to the inauguration.

UNTAG goes home

UN Photo

"We are like a midwife, and the baby was born with independence", Martti Ahtisaari told *The New York Times* shortly after Namibia became independent on 21 March.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative proudly stressed that the UNTAG mission in the south-west African country had been concluded 10 days ahead of the target date of 1 April and had cost $373.4 million—$42.8 million less than the $416.2 million budgeted by the General Assembly.

At peak strength, during the elections, UNTAG swelled to 7,900 people from 109 nations. But for most of the 52-week mission, it numbered around 6,700—4,300 military, 1,500 police and 900 civilians.

Some 200 UNTAG outposts were established, including 42 regional or district centres and 48 police stations. A total of 32 television shows and 201 radio programmes were produced in 13 local languages. More than 600,000 T-shirts, buttons, stickers and pamphlets were distributed. Thousands were daily informed of their individual rights and details of the independence process. And 701,483 voters were registered, an incredible 97.4 per cent of which actually cast their ballots.

Some 433,000 Namibian exiles—scattered throughout 40 countries—were repatriated with the assistance of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Women were highly visible in the successful nine-month Namibia operation. They accounted for more than 45 per cent of the UNTAG staff. They were everywhere—running regional offices, driving four-wheel vehicles in the desert, serving as soldiers, doctors, poll-watchers, fingerprint experts, nurses.

"You worked long hours each day, and travelled hundreds of miles in demanding conditions, undertook week-long patrols with only minimum rations", Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar told UNTAG staff members on 20 March, after reviewing a military parade by the Kenyan, Malaysian and Finnish battalions at the Suiderhof base near Windhoek.

He added: "Many of you lived and worked in harsh and remote places. But there were few complaints. There was a job to be done, and you did it with total commitment."

Many UNTAG members who have already returned to their former jobs around the world frequently talk of their Namibian experience, "of the emotion of many old people who had waited a lifetime to vote for their country. They mention what feelings were stirred when a United Nations flag was raised in some distant area where, just a few weeks before, the thought of such an event would have been inconceivable", the Secretary-General said.

UNTAG women: In difficult and dangerous situations

"Over the past year, women staff members participated, for the first time in almost equal numbers with men, on the civilian side of a historic United Nations operation. They made a significant contribution to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)—often in difficult and sometimes in dangerous situations—paving the way for the independence of Namibia . . .

"These women acquitted themselves in a manner which should once and for all erase the doubts—which I for one never had—regarding the ability of women to perform as well as men in any and all areas of United Nations activity. The same can be said of the United Nations Observation Mission to Verify the Elections in Nicaragua, nearly half of whose staff were women. Thus, new standards have been set for United Nations activities in the future."

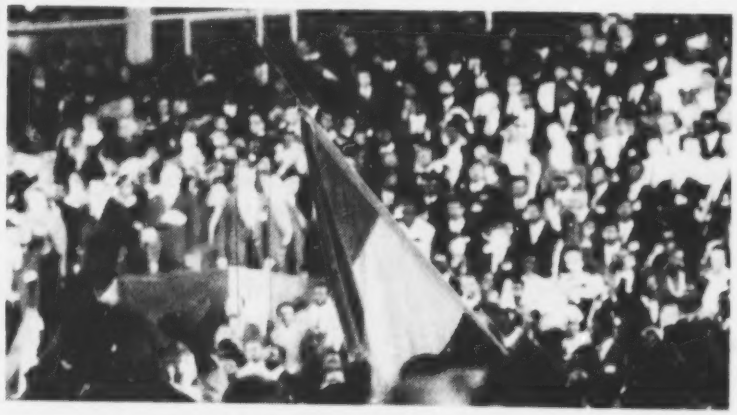
Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar on the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March

The Security Council was discussing a possible extension of the UNTAG mandate, he told the press. Meanwhile, a small UNTAG administrative presence would remain in Namibia. Concerns over the potential for security problems in northern Namibia after independence had been voiced by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who had asked for an UNTAG presence there after 21 March.

Administrator-General Pienaar left Namibia on 22 March and was seen off by President Nujoma.

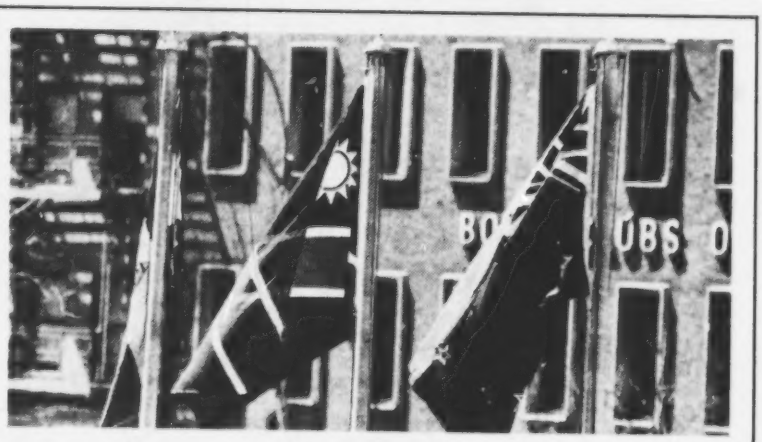
As Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, travelled on to Rabat, the Moroccan capital, on 23 March—the first leg of a trip to North Africa to promote a solution to the Western Sahara question—UNTAG continued its withdrawal from Namibia.

All civilian staff and military observers were expected to leave the country by 30 March. The last of the police officers were to depart by 7 April. And some 4,000 infantry personnel would be gone by 8 April, carrying with them the pale blue-and-white UN flag—for the last year the symbol of hope and transition in Namibia.



UN Photo 157266/J Isaac

Lowering the South African flag, 21 March, Windhoek.



Namibian flag *(centre)* raised at UN Headquarters in New York on 23 April.

A New State...A Triumph for Africa

A new State is about to be born, and, at long last, to take its rightful place among the community of nations. We gather in Windhoek tonight to celebrate the culmination of the struggle for national dignity and independence of many generations of Namibians. Numerous lives have been sacrificed in seeking the goal which has now been reached.

The whole world, especially Africa, rejoices with Namibia. What is a triumph for Namibia is a triumph for Africa and, indeed, for the principles that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. I wish to pay tribute tonight to the numerous sons and daughters of Africa who have laboured and sacrificed in solidarity with the Namibian people.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
20 March

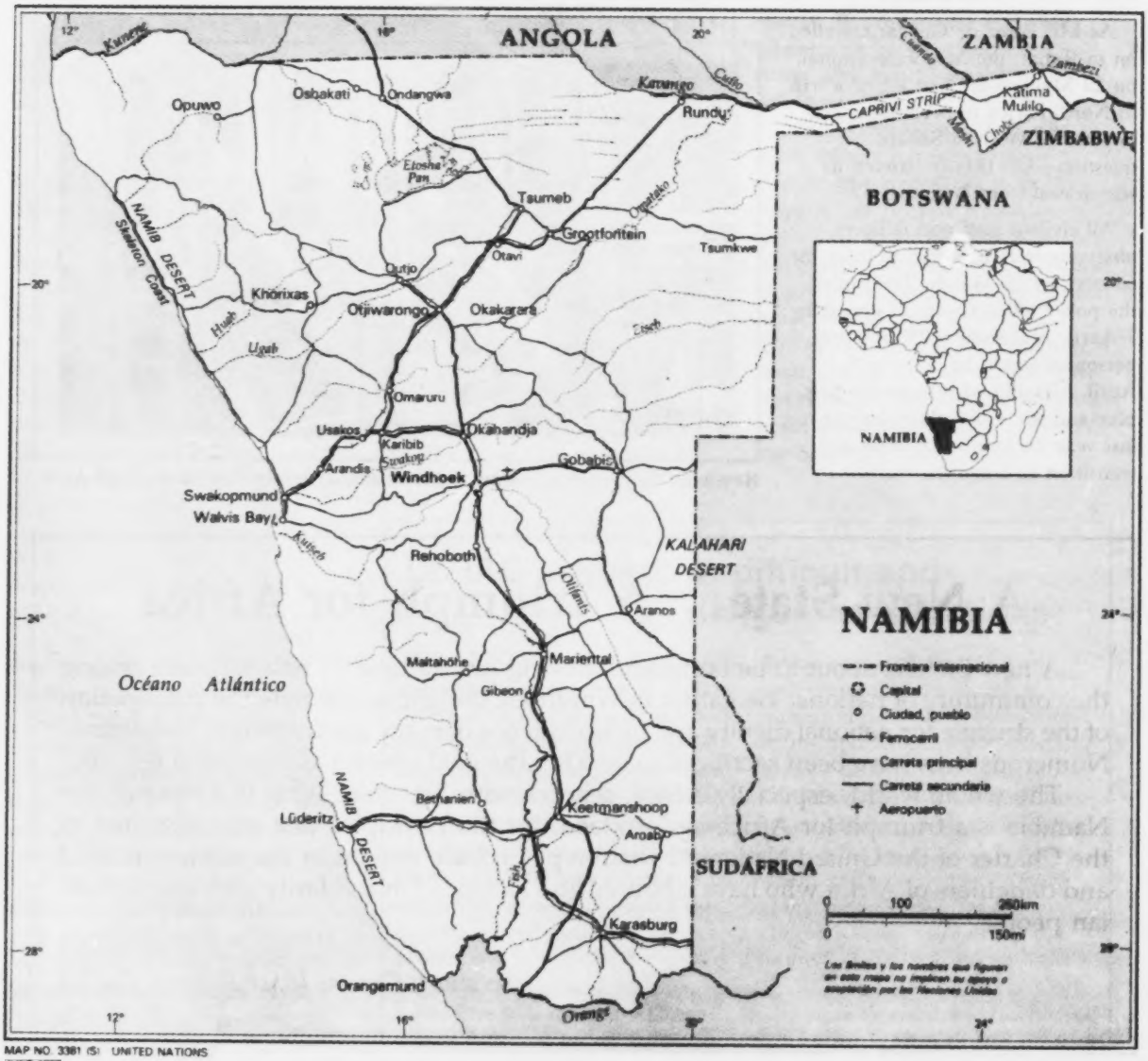
Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar paid solemn tribute to the memory of the 17 men and women of UNTAG who lost their lives while on mission. At the close of the ceremony, he awarded UNTAG medals to Force Commander General Prem Chand and Police Commissioner Stephen Fanning. "The spirit of dedication that permeated UNTAG was exemplified in the quality of its leadership in the territory", the Secretary-General stated.

The Closing Chapter

When he became Secretary-General in 1982, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar vowed to make Namibia his highest personal priority. At the inauguration ceremony, he said that he was "filled with profound emotion and gratitude that this priority has been realized—by arduous effort, with frustrations and occasional setbacks in the past, no doubt, but through a process which has fully vindicated the repute and effectiveness of the United Nations".

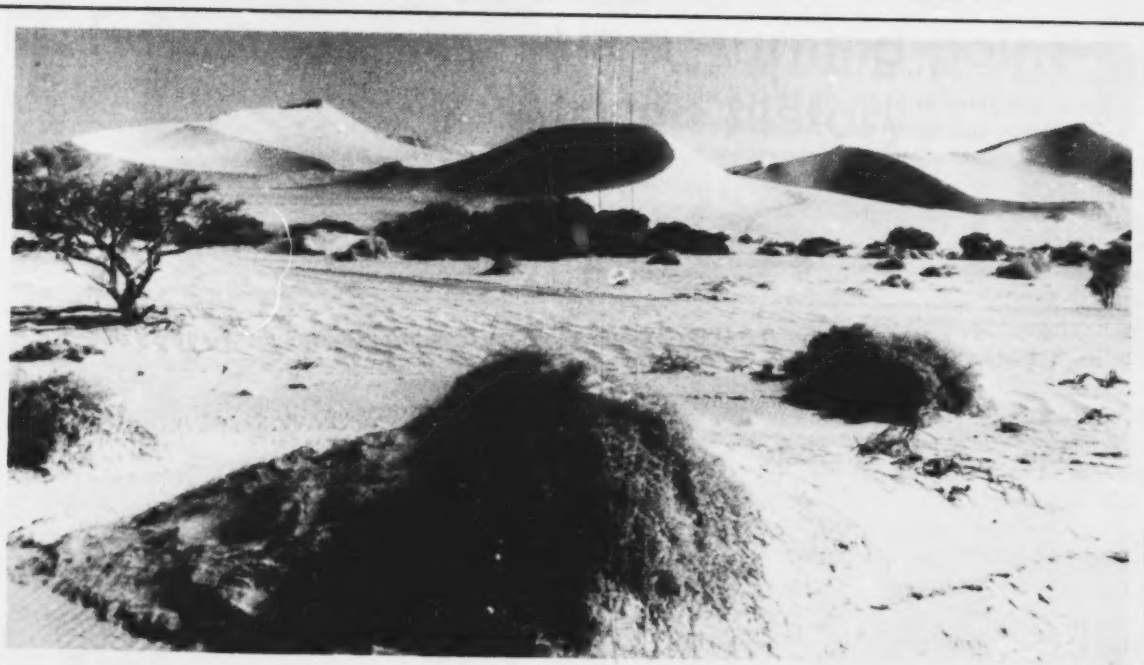
On his return to New York, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar presented "with great satisfaction" what he termed his closing report on Namibia to the Security Council *(S/21215)*.

The goal of independence for Namibia, for which the United Nations and its Member States had striven for so long, had been achieved "in dignity and with great rejoicing", he was able, finally, to tell the Council.



MAP NO. 3381 (S) UNITED NATIONS
JUNE 1986

Namibia: A Historical Brief



UN Photo

The UN has played a pre-eminent role in the intense international involvement in securing Namibia's ultimate destiny. The following chronology outlines some significant events in the new nation's history.

1884-1914: South-West Africa (later known as Namibia) is a German colony.

1920: Following Germany's defeat in World War I, the League of Nations gives South Africa a mandate to administer the territory.

1946: A UN trusteeship replaces the League of Nations mandate. South Africa rejects the change.

1966: The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) starts a guerrilla war to gain independence for the territory. After 15 years of unsuccessful negotiations, the UN strips South Africa of any rights over the territory and assumes direct responsibility for administering South West Africa.

1967: The Council for Namibia is established as the legal Administering Authority for the Territory.

1968: The UN renames the territory Namibia.

1971: The International Court of Justice rules that the South African presence in Namibia is illegal.

1976: The Security Council calls for free elections in Namibia under UN supervision (resolution 385).

1978: South Africa and SWAPO accept a plan for Namibia's independence under UN supervision, proposed by Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Security Council decides to create the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) and to apply the UN plan (resolution 435).

1988: On 22 December, after eight months of intense United States-brokered negotiations, Angola, Cuba and South Africa sign agreements on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and the achievement of peace in south-western Africa. (South Africa had linked, since 1982, Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops. The Security Council had rejected that linkage).

1989: On 16 January, the Security Council officially declares 1 April 1989 as the day for the start of Namibia's transition to independence. It also authorizes sending UNTAG to Namibia (resolutions 628 and 629).

1990: On 23 April, Namibia achieves independence.

Namibia: what now?

Namibia—with its 824,292 square kilometres somewhat larger than the size of France and the United Kingdom combined—is home to only 1.5 million people. Its population density is 1.5 persons per square kilometre, compared to 18 for Africa as a whole.

Its landscape and topography is contradictory—sometimes arid, sometimes lush, sometimes forbidding, sometimes welcoming. Flanked by two deserts—the Namib to the west and the Kalahari to the east—Namibia exports diamonds, uranium oxide and other minerals, beef and karakul pelts for luxury fur coats. It also has some of the world's richest fishing waters.

The country has a wealth of natural resources. It also has a relatively developed infrastructure, skilled workers, local capital and a strong political will to forge ahead with development.

But Namibia is expected to need significant external assistance during its first years of independence. Its most immediate need is for foreign loans or other types of funding to cover an expected $200 million a year budget deficit due to the loss of South African fiscal aid.

At a rally on the first day of independence, 21 March, President Nujoma proclaimed that his Government was "committed to a mixed economy" and looked forward "to a good partnership between the state and the private sectors, because only through working together will our economy prosper".

Although Mr. Nujoma's South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) had traditionally expressed a preference for a socialist economy, the Namibian President told the thousands attending a rally in Windhoek that his Government wanted to "ensure a more dynamic role for the private sector", which should be "an engine for growth and prosperity".

And he added: "We welcome inflows of capital and technical know-how from abroad. Private enterprise will be needed to employ our work force."

The President announced that his Government was drafting a code that would "spell out our open and inviting attitude to investment and set out the kind of commitment that we would expect from investors toward our goals of national development".

Namibia confronted "major economic difficulties", Mr. Nujoma stated. "We have inherited a lopsided and underdeveloped economy", he said, referring to his country's economic dependence on South Africa.

"Two thirds of our population are very poor by our standards and by the standards of the world", he said. Mass unemployment was "one of the most crippling legacies of colonialism". More than 30 per cent of the work force was unemployed and an even larger number underemployed.

UN 157283/J Isaac

Special Representative Ahtisaari at a briefing on Namibia's future.

The UN is already playing a major role in mobilizing international aid for the youngest African nation. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has already announced the launching of a $10.6 million, two-year technical assistance programme.

The UNDP Trust Fund for Namibia, set up in September 1989, will channel capital and technical assistance in the areas of economic management, agriculture (including livestock and fisheries), education and training, health care, civil aviation and transport, human settlements and rural roads.

A donor's conference planned for June is expected to bring in more funding for Namibia's development.

Some countries have already announced bilateral aid to Namibia: the Federal Republic of Germany promised $50 million. On 21 March, the United States lifted all economic sanctions it had imposed on Namibia while under South African control and said it would grant that nation full trading partner privileges. United States aid to Namibia is planned to increase from $500,000 this year to $7.8 million in 1991.

ANTI-APARTHEID NOTES

Release of Mandela a 'turning point' in South African history

AP Photo

Mr. Mandela *(centre)* on the day of his release.

The 11 February release of black South African political leader Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for more than 27 years, was enthusiastically welcomed by the international community.

On 12 February, the Special Committee against *Apartheid* expressed "profound joy" at Mr. Mandela's freedom. It called his release a "victory for the anti-*apartheid* movement in South Africa, and for all the people and Governments around the world which for years have fought for his freedom".

Mr. Mandela's freedom, however, would remain incomplete until the majority of the South African people could enjoy equality, dignity and justice, the Committee stated. It urged prompt implementation of all measures required to establish a climate conducive to negotiations.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said the freeing of Mr. Mandela, together with other measures announced by South Africa, marked "a turning point in the process for the peaceful settlement of the South African situation".

South African President F.W. de Klerk's "positive move", he said, should be followed without delay by lifting the state of emergency and releasing all other political prisoners.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar hoped that the momentum for peace created by recent South African initiatives would accelerate the dismantling of the *apartheid* system and its replacement by a non-racial democracy,

Anti-Apartheid Notes

"in which all the citizens of South Africa, regardless of race or colour, will be able to participate fully, a system which would ensure justice and equality for all". He expressed confidence that Mr. Mandela would play an important role in advancing such a democratic process.

At a special 16 February meeting of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* marking Mr. Mandela's release, the Secretary-General said that event was "not an end in itself, but a milestone in the democratic process which must lead to the liberation of the people of South Africa from the system of *apartheid*".

It was now possible that the people of South Africa, working together, could establish a non-racial democracy with equal rights for all.

General Assembly President Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria called Mr. Mandela's release "most propitious and of immense significance" towards realizing the desired objective of peacefully attaining a non-racial and democratic South Africa. He warned, however, that it would be "ill-advised and counter-productive" for any UN Member State to lift sanctions against South Africa now.

That should be considered only after the state of emergency had been fully lifted, all remaining political prisoners released, and meaningful negotiation commenced among all people of South Africa in order to end the *apartheid* system, he said.

Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, in his first statement as the new Chairman of the Special Committee, said that Mr. Mandela personified "the yearnings of the people of South Africa for freedom, equality and justice". He stressed that when Mr. Mandela had come out of prison, "he did not talk revenge, he talked about reconciliation".

Call for effective programme against *apartheid*

A three-day seminar on "East Asian action against *apartheid*", held at the UN University (Tokyo, 23-25 January), called for greater pressure on South Africa by the countries of the region to dismantle the *apartheid* system. Among other things, participants favoured strict observance of the mandatory arms embargo; embargoes on the supply of all military products and technology, including oil and petroleum products; and cessation of credit loans and equity investment.

International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination observed

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was observed on 21 March at Headquarters at a solemn meeting of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*. Proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1966, the Day marks the anniversary of a 1960 protest by civilians at Sharpeville, South Africa, against the "pass laws". Some 69 persons were killed and 180 wounded after police fired on the crowd.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar hoped for a normalization of the political process, including a national dialogue on the country's future.

General Assembly President Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria said until *apartheid* was eliminated, international pressure on Pretoria must be maintained, and assistance and support for South Africa's oppressed people provided. "The day will certainly come when the black people of South Africa . . . can point to a new constitution which guarantees all people their fundamental rights under the democratic and free society, in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities", he stated.

Special Committee urges continued sanctions

The continuation of sanctions against South Africa and an end to its collaboration with Israel in the nuclear and military fields were urged on 9 March in New York at the first meeting of 1990 of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*.

In opening the session, Committee Vice-Chairman Guennadi I. Oudovenko of the Ukrainian SSR said any change of policy now by the international community towards South Africa would be premature. Lifting sanctions—the most effective means to eliminate *apartheid*—would undermine the process—seeking democratic change in that country.

He called for the release of all political prisoners; the return of exiles; lifting of the state of emergency; removal of troops from the townships; and repeal of repressive legislation.

On 16 February, Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria was elected as Special Committee Chairman for 1990. Re-elected as Vice-Chairmen were Glodys Saint-Phard of Haiti, Jai Pratap Rana of Nepal and Mr. Oudovenko. Virendra Gupta of India was re-elected Rapporteur.

Central America peace process progresses

Nicaraguan elections, ONUCA expansion

UN Photo 157218/J. Rojas

Nicaragua's President-elect Chamorro greeting Special Representative Richardson.

The Central American peace process progressed in February and March with the successful conclusion of UN-supervised elections in Nicaragua and steps to demobilize the Nicaraguan resistance in that country with assistance from an expanded mandate for the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

More than 1.5 million Nicaraguans went to the polls on Sunday, 25 February, in the first UN-monitored elections in an independent country.

Voting took place "without intimidation or violence" and was evaluated as "free and fair" by ONUVEN—the UN Observer Mission to verify the electoral process in Nicaragua—said Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. ONUVEN "not only observed but actively facilitated an orderly, free and fair election in Nicaragua".

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was elected President, with 54.7 per cent of total ballots cast. Both she and outgoing President Daniel Ortega Saavedra requested a UN presence in Nicaragua until the 25 April inauguration, to facilitate a peaceful and orderly transition process. Mrs. Chamorro headed the National Opposition Union coalition slate. Mr. Ortega Saavedra was the candidate of the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN), in power since 1979.

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar announced on 1 March that a transition team of 12 UN officers headed by ONUVEN chief S. Iqbal Riza would remain in Nicaragua's capital city, Managua, until the end of April.

After his Personal Representative for the Electoral Process in Nicaragua, Elliot Richardson, reported the morning after the elections a "smooth unfolding of the process", Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that both he and the world Organization were "very pleased", in particular at having played a role in this effort.

"Yesterday Nicaragua took a major step toward national reconciliation, and hence Central America as a whole took a great stride towards peace and democratization", he stated.

He added: "While the immediate victory is for the candidates who have won the elections, the Government of Nicaragua deserves warm commendations for having convened these elections ahead of schedule, having submitted to the test of the people's will, and accepting the verdict of the ballot box."

At a 13 March press conference in New York, Mr. Richardson said that prospects of disbanding the contras before the formal transfer of power in Nicaragua were good, because both the outgoing and incoming administrations and the United States would support such a move.

Mr. Richardson, who was in Nicaragua from 20 to 28 February, had reviewed voting arrangements and ONUVEN's work in all regions of the country. He had also made official visits in October 1989 and January 1990.

In a fourth report issued on 22 February, a few days before the elections *(A/44/921)*, ONUVEN had judged that the electoral process had been, on the whole, sufficiently fair and that the Nicaraguan people were "in a position to decide between alternatives which have been given a reasonable chance to be aired".

The Mission issued on 30 March its fifth and final report *(A/44/927)* which detailed voting control and procedures, including how balloting was monitored by the 207 observers who travelled throughout Nicaragua using 128 vehicles, two helicopters and four small boats. These monitors were backed by a team of 34 stationed at ONUVEN headquarters in Managua.

On election day, observers visited 2,155 voting stations in 141 of 143 Nicaraguan municipalities. The Mission was already independently tabulating presidential voting results as Mrs. Chamorro's victory was recognized both by the Supreme Electoral Council and President Ortega. In light of this, ONUVEN reported that it had suspended its count.

Its 27-page report also includes data on the conduct of the voting, statistical tables and the text of a protocol on the procedure for the transfer of power agreed upon by the outgoing and incoming administrations on 27 March.

"It is ONUVEN's assessment that the elections were conducted in a highly commendable manner, and no problems have been detected which might cast doubts on their fairness. The best evidence of this is obviously the victory of the opposition, which entertained doubts about the validity of the electoral process", the report concluded.

UN Photo 157237/J. Rojas

The electoral process was judged fair, with some 1.5 million votes cast.

ONUCA mandate widened

The Security Council on 27 March widened the mandate of ONUCA so that it could "play a part in the voluntary demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance". It also approved the addition of an 800-strong infantry battalion from Venezuela. Both actions were taken in adopting resolution 650 (1990) unanimously.

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar, in a 15 March report *(S/21194)*, stated that the additional troops would not actually be deployed until the necessary political conditions were fulfilled, "namely an agreement by all concerned for the voluntary demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance".

The "Toncontín Agreement"—establishing a cease-fire and demobilization arrangements—was reached a week later, on 23 March, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, between President-elect Chamorro's incoming administration and the Nicaraguan resistance, with the participation of Nicaragua's Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

The agreement *(A/44/931-S/21206)* commits the resistance to begin to demobilize all its forces still remaining in Honduras by 20 April at the latest, and to concentrate its armed forces currently in Nicaragua in security zones supervised by ONUCA and the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), the joint United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) group in charge of implementing civilian aspects of the 1987 Guatemala agreement, setting out procedures for the peace process.

ONUCA role

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar requested ONUCA's expansion after intensive consultations with President Ortega's Government and President-elect Chamorro's party.

It was agreed that ONUCA would be responsible, among other things, "for taking delivery of weapons, *matériel* and military equipment, including military uniforms, of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance", the Secretary-General informed the Council.

ONUCA would also establish and ensure the security of temporary assembly points for Nicaraguan resistance members—both in Nicaragua itself and at certain locations in Costa Rica close to that country's border with Nicaragua.

The Observer Group was originally mandated to verify, on the spot, compliance with security arrangements contained in the 1987 Guatemala agreement, which called for "cessation of aid to irregular forces and insurrectionist movements operating in the region and the non-use of the territory of one State for attacking others".

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar also told the Council that he was taking urgent steps to have 119 additional military observers join ONUCA, bringing the total to 260—the full strength originally envisaged for the Group.

UN Photo 157235/S. Johansen

A political rally in the streets of Managua.

Turning the page

Following the vote, James Wilkinson of the United States said that there should be no doubt in anyone's mind about his country's position on the question of the contras: "We want and encourage them to demobilize freely and return to their land to contribute to its development."

A page of history was turning in Central America, he said. His country supported both the Central American peace plan and the Secretary-General's continuous efforts to assist in its implementation.

The only other speaker, Cuba's Permanent Representative Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, said that he hoped that the resolution just adopted and the UN activity in Nicaragua would bring to an end, "once and for all", activities that had "cost the people of Nicaragua so much in terms of human life and material damage".

But it would be ironic if the financial burden of monitoring the end "of an operation that should never have taken place" should now fall on the international community, particularly in view of the more than $321 million external financing received by the Nicaraguan resistance, he added.

On 29 March, a UN spokesman announced in New York that UN representatives led by ONUCA Commander, Major-General Agustín Quesada Gómez, were in Nicaragua to work out the details of the demobilization operation.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was aware of reports that some resistance leaders had agreed that their forces would go to assembly points inside Nicaragua, but were not willing to immediately disarm themselves.

Nicaraguan complaint to Security Council

On 3 January, Nicaragua complained to the Security Council that on 29 December 1989 United States military forces had searched the residence of the Ambassador of Nicaragua in Panama.

A draft resolution *(S/21084)* declaring the event "a violation of the privileges and immunities recognized under international law" was not adopted by the Council on 17 January due to a veto by the United States, one of the Council's five permanent members.

Sign of 'growing confidence'

'Big Five' agree on UN role in Cambodia

New peace-keeping operation envisioned

UN Photo

The Secretary-General, shown above on a trip to Cambodia, has been instrumental in facilitating the peace process.

The "Big Five"—permanent members of the Security Council—have agreed in principle on an "enhanced United Nations role in the resolution of the Cambodian problem", including the creation of a Namibia-style UN transition group. The ultimate goal: self-determination for the Cambodian people.

These five States—China, France, United Kingdom, USSR and United States—held three meetings in early 1990, on 15-16 January and 12-13 March in Paris, and on 11-12 February in New York, on the future of the South-East Asian nation known in recent years as "Kampuchea".

Their common objective, they stated, was a comprehensive political settlement leading to an early restoration of peace, a neutral political environment for elections, and the preservation of unity of Cambodia during a transitional period and beyond.

They also suggested that during the period leading to elections, a Supreme National Council, agreed on by the four Cambodian parties, be established as a unique legitimate body in which "national sovereignty and unity should be enshrined". Its composition should be decided by the Cambodian parties themselves "and could include representatives of all shades of opinion" among Cambodians.

A UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) should be created, given the need for a neutral administration in the

country during the transitional period. An effective UN presence would be required during that period "in order to assure internal security", the Five stated.

UNTAC would be established by the UN Security Council under the direct responsibility of the UN Secretary-General, who might appoint a Special Representative to supervise UN activities during the transition, "culminating in the inauguration of a democratically elected government". The Five would commit themselves to honouring the results of the elections.

It was stressed that all Cambodians should enjoy the same rights, freedoms and opportunities to participate in an election process. UNTAC would assure the Cambodian people of freedom from intimidation and the threat of force and corruption; protect them from economic and social discrimination; and guarantee human and civil rights for all.

UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on 17 January said the Big Five efforts were "another sign of the growing confidence" in the Organization's capacity as a mechanism for the peaceful settlement of conflicts. A "well-defined, realistic and practicable" mandate for any UN role was needed, as were adequate resources to support effective implementation, he stated. The Five had said the scale of a UN operation should take account of the heavy financial burden that may be placed on Member States.

Constructive dialogue wanted

After the first Paris session, the Five set out 17 principles *(A/45/91)* to guide their work towards a resolution of the Cambodian problem, including a UN-verified withdrawal of foreign forces, a cease-fire and cessation of outside military assistance. Diplomatic efforts to achieve a settlement should be speeded up, they stressed.

They also favoured an early resumption of a "constructive dialogue among the Cambodian factions", which they considered "essential to facilitating the transition process, which should not be dominated by any one of them".

These factions are: the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Co-operative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC) headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk; the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), led by Son Sann; the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK), led by Khieu Samphan; and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary party, led by Heng Samrin.

Key issues

On 15 February, following their New York meeting, the Five reported *(A/45/127-S/21149)* that discussions had focused on two key issues: modalities of peace-keeping, including military aspects, and an administrative structure during the interim period.

Specifically, they said, "regrouping and cantonment of the armed forces of the factions into designated areas" would be needed. A climate of trust and confidence had to be created to help resolve military issues; the question of disarming all factions was discussed.

Options related to establishing a Supreme National Council, the status and functions of a UN administration and the "question of the existing régimes" were also considered. All concerned parties were called on to protect and preserve the historic temple complex of Angkor.

'Common understanding'

After meeting in Paris a second time, the Five on 15 March noted *(A/45/167-S/21196)* that in the Informal Meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta (26 February-1 March) "common understanding was reached among all concerned, notably the Cambodian parties", regarding the UN role in the settlement process and the establishment of a Supreme National Council.

The Supreme Council would delegate to UNTAC all necessary powers including those to conduct free and fair elections, and would be consulted and give advice on matters relating to civil administration and electoral organization. The Council would also occupy Cambodia's seat at the UN and other international fora.

Verified voter lists

Elections, it was suggested, should be on the basis of genuine and verified voter registration lists of Cambodian citizens. Eligibility to vote, including provisions regarding conditions of residence in Cambodia, would be established in the electoral law. Special arrangements would be agreed on to guarantee to refugees and displaced persons the right to vote.

The Five said the electoral process should be guided by several principles: an absolutely impartial system and procedures; efficient and simple administrative arrangements; all Cambodian voters have the same rights, freedoms and opportunities to take part in the election process; and all parties commit themselves to honouring the results.

The duration of the process should be as short as possible, leading to a single election of a constituent assembly which would approve a constitution and transform itself into a legislative assembly.

The Five also affirmed their support for "all responsible efforts by regional parties to achieve a comprehensive political settlement" and said they would remain in close touch, with a view to reconvening the Conference on Peace in Cambodia (Paris, 30 July-30 August 1989) "at an appropriate time".

According to the Secretary-General, the Paris Conference had cleared a path towards peace in Cambodia. The Conference had "done a remarkable technical job, allowing the foundations to be laid for an overall settlement" of the Cambodian problem.

Task force

An intra-Secretariat task force was set up to oversee the technical aspects of a possible UN operation in Cambodia, chaired by the Secretary-General and including Rafeeuddin Ahmed, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia; Virendra Dayal, the Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet; Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs Marrack Goulding; Under-Secretary-General and UN Legal Counsel Carl-August Fleischhauer; Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and UN Controller, Luis María Gómez; and Military Adviser to the Secretary-General, Major-General Timothy Dibuama.

A change of name

At its first meeting in 1990 held in New York on 26 January, the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea re-elected Absa Claude Diallo of Senegal as its Chairman, who said that 1990 should prove decisive for resolving the situation in Kampuchea. The events of recent weeks had given cause for hope that Kampuchea could be placed on the path towards a return to peace and prosperity.

On 3 February, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of Cambodia, announced that as of that date, the country would no longer be called "Democratic Kampuchea". It would be called "Cambodia" in English, "Cambodge" in French and "Kampuchea" in Khmer. The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) would now be called the "National Government of Cambodia" (NGC). The design of the national flag and the national anthem were also changed. These changes have been effected at the United Nations.

More than $3.4 million was pledged at a 28 February meeting in New York of donors to the Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes. Contributions were promised by Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Malaysia, Norway and the United States.

New round of talks on Western Sahara

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, in the exercise of his good offices' mission for the peaceful resolution of the question of Western Sahara, visited North Africa in late March, where he had talks with the leaders of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO).

On his arrival on 23 March at Marrakesh, Morocco, he said that he had come to the region to speed up the peace process. "The new atmosphere of reconciliation and of peaceful solutions to problems makes it all the more important to move forward towards a positive and rapid solution to the Western Sahara problem", he added.

During the North African trip, the Secretary-General met with King Hassan II of Morocco in Rabat and with Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary-General of POLISARIO, in Tindouf, Algeria. He also had talks with President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, whose country is an official observer to the peace process. A meeting was held at the expert level between the UN delegation and Moroccan officials.

Attending the discussions was his new Special Representative on Western Sahara, Johannes Manz, a national of Switzerland, who on 19 January succeeded Hector Cros Espiell of Uruguay.

The General Assembly on 11 December *(resolution 44/88)* welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to promote a just and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara, and urged them to intensify their efforts in that regard.

The Secretary-General told the press that in his talks with the Moroccan side and POLISARIO, he had found "a more propitious atmosphere" and a greater political will to move forward. "That does not mean, however, that all obstacles have been resolved", he noted. What was important was that both sides had accepted the holding of a referendum, which the UN and the OAU must ensure is impartial.

'An integrated whole'

Security Council supports direct talks between Iran and Iraq

On 27 February, the Security Council expressed full support for the Secretary-General's efforts to hold "appropriately structured direct talks" between Iran and Iraq under his auspices. The talks would be held with a specific agenda that the Secretary-General would propose to the parties, on the basis of concluding observations in his report of 22 September 1989 *(S/20862)* on the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

Such talks, over a period of two months, would aim at achieving an implementation plan including timings and procedures for all aspects of resolution 598 (1987). The implementation plan would reflect the understanding of the two sides on how the implementation should be carried out.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stressed the need to implement resolution 598 as an integrated whole. Each side must be assured, he said, of the other's firm commitment to its full implementation.

Resolution 598, adopted unanimously on 20 July 1987, calls inter alia, for a cease-fire, an end to all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized boundaries, dispatch of a team of UN observers to supervise those actions, and release and repatriation of prisoners of war.

The Council expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General for his "integrated approach" to the format, agenda and timetable for direct talks.

UN Photo 172153/J. Isaac

UNIIMOG officers in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq

Iran and Iraq were called upon to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in his ongoing efforts, considering that 18 months after the cease-fire between the two countries, resolution 598 had not yet been fully implemented.

Following the statement by the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative continued contacts with both sides, which included separate meetings in late April with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran and the Under Secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, to arrange a new phase of direct talks. Both sides have been seeking clarifications from United Nations officials, though neither side has said those requests were preconditions.

Mandate of UNIIMOG renewed

The mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG)—which monitors the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq—has been renewed until 30 September 1990. In unanimously adopting resolution 651 (1990) on 29 March, the Security Council called on Iran and Iraq to implement immediately resolution 598.

The Observer Group, established on 9 August 1988 by the Council to supervise the UN-sponsored cease-fire between Iran and Iraq and withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized boundaries, is made up of some 400 personnel from 26 countries. Its commander is Major-General Slavko Jovic, a national of Yugoslavia.

'Operation Salam': To build a future

By Sadruddin Aga Khan

UN Photo

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan is the Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan, "Operation Salam".

With the Afghan winter now over, "Operation Salam"—the United Nations office set up in 1988 to co-ordinate humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan—is gearing up for a large increase in its activities. Despite the volatile political and military situation in the country, massive assistance can and should be provided to the Afghan people in 1990. Operation Salam's new plan of action foresees a commitment of funds amounting to more than US $650 million, even though a number of contributions pledged have not yet been received.

The main areas of activity in 1990 will be agriculture and health, although work in most sectors will depend on the removal of mines and other unexploded ordnance. Nearly 20,000 Afghans have so far received UN training in mine clearance and awareness programmes. Actual mine clearance by the UN inside Afghanistan started in the eastern provinces of Hunar and Paktika earlier this year and, once the ground has thawed properly, it will take place on a far larger scale.

Every one of Afghanistan's 20 provinces received UN assistance during 1989 in the form of pilot projects, and there is a regular UN presence in the provinces of Badghis, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kunar and Paktika. Funds have so far been used to promote 201 projects inside the country through UN agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Until recently, UN teams had seen little evidence of widespread malnutrition or emergency food needs. But the current situation in several northern provinces, where last year's harvest was ravaged by locusts and sunn pest, is continuing to deteriorate.

Three-fold response

The UN response to this emergency is three-fold: food and other essential items are being distributed in the worst-hit areas to prevent starvation and the migration of further refugees to Iran; insecticides are to be provided to ensure that the next harvest is not destroyed in a similar way; and seeds and fertilizer will be allocated later to revitalize the agricultural sector in the north.

In the autumn of 1989, the UN organized a series of "train convoys", known as "Salam Expresses", originating in Finland and Italy laden with over 35,000 tonnes of wheat donated by several countries for delivery to stricken areas. By April, the first 7,500 tonnes had been delivered to the northern provinces.

Kabul and other cities, traditionally dependent on the north for their food and with their lines of supply periodically cut by anti-government forces, from time to time suffer acute shortages. To avoid a repetition of the food and medical supply crisis of the winter of 1988-1989 and to prevent further suffering of such vulnerable groups as women and children, Operation Salam—in collaboration with

UN Photo

'Operation Salam' in action.

UNICEF, WFP and other agencies—distributed blankets, medical supplies and high-protein food at the end of last year.

Zones of tranquillity

Continued hostilities in Afghanistan, which some experts classify as "low intensity conflict", are fortunately limited to a few specific zones. These hostilities have not been a serious impediment to UN efforts in the country as a whole. And since one function of humanitarian aid and economic reconstruction is to serve as a building block for peace making, the activities of Operation Salam should logically precede rather than follow peace.

In order to demonstrate more tangibly the link between peace and humanitarian assistance, the UN intends to recognize a number of areas and provinces in Afghanistan, in co-operation with local and national authorities, as "zones of tranquillity". To qualify for this increased volume of UN aid, an area must have been peaceful for a certain period of time and local authorities must be fully supportive of the UN presence. These zones are not being "created" by the UN but already exist and are being consolidated through significant assistance. It is hoped that they will facilitate the voluntary return home of internally displaced persons as well as refugees and also serve as peaceful models to be emulated in other regions.

The UN Secretary-General's 1988 appeal still has a shortfall, and to be able to use the in-kind contributions which form 70 per cent of the amount pledged so far, Operation Salam is appealing for more cash contributions. The choice is between abandoning the Afghan people to their fate—which can only mean more suffering and instability—or providing what is needed to build a future.

Afghan question: A growing commitment to political solution

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on 15 February said he saw a growing commitment to a political solution of the Afghan question in his "intensive contacts with all segments of the Afghan population and the Governments concerned".

In a statement on the occasion of the first anniversary of the completion of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that an international consensus should be developed to enable the Afghan people to develop their own national consensus. Only then would Afghans be able to exercise their right to self-determination. A comprehensive political solution could be achieved only if all concerned work with "a communality of purpose", he said.

While foreign troop withdrawal had been achieved, the "tragedy of the Afghan people" had not yet ended, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar emphasized. Other provisions of the Geneva Accords had not yet been fully implemented. Afghan refugees continued to suffer outside their country, and the Afghan people as a whole continued to be the victims of a war "where military might has produced no victor".

In the Geneva Accords, Afghanistan and Pakistan signed instruments on principles of mutual relations, in particular non-interference and non-intervention; on voluntary return of refugees; and on interrelationships for the settlement, which provided for foreign troop withdrawal. The United States and the USSR, as international guarantors, signed a declaration promising to "refrain from any form of interference or intervention".

OSGAP established

The Security Council on 11 January adopted resolution 647 (1990), unanimously extending the mandate of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) for a further period of two months to 15 March. The military component of UNGOMAP, composed of a detachment of 40 military officers from 10 countries, had been assisting in the monitoring of the Accords.

Following the termination of the mandate of UNGOMAP on 15 March 1990, the Secretary-General established the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP) so as to continue with his good offices mission, in accordance with the provisions of the Accords and General Assembly resolution *(44/15)*. He appointed his Personal Representative, Benon V. Sevan, as head of OSGAP. Mr. Sevan will be assisted by civilian and military personnel. The military officers are detached temporarily from other UN operations and act in their new capacity as military advisers to the Secretary-General's Personal Representative.

Security Council considers settlements in occupied territories

The Security Council between 15 and 29 March reviewed the situation in the occupied Arab territories, focusing on reports that recent immigrants to Israel from the Soviet Union were being settled in those territories. A total of five meetings were held on the subject.

The USSR had requested *(S/21139)* that the Council convene to consider what it called "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories". It said the Israeli actions ran counter to the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949 and obstructed Middle East peace efforts.

Council President Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal of the Democratic Yemen said that the matter would be considered further by the Council at a later date. No draft resolution had been tabled by the end of March.

Aleksandr Belonogov of the USSR, who brought the issue to the Council, in debate pointed out that the Security Council had previously called on Israel to halt establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the territories occupied since 1967.

The evolution of the situation in the Middle East had recently been viewed with some hope. Unfortunately, the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories was a new and serious obstacle to peace in the region. Certain circles in Israel were deliberately creating such obstacles, the USSR said.

Johanan Bein of Israel commended the determination of the USSR to grant freedom of movement to its citizens. At the same time, "an ugly campaign" was being waged by Arab States to halt the immigration of Jews to Israel altogether. It was implied that Israel intended to displace Palestinians with Jewish immigrants, and that was "preposterous", he said.

There were no grounds for allegations that Israel, as a matter of policy, was directing Jewish immigrants to the territories. More than 99 per cent of the immigrants had settled in Israel's main urban centres, Mr. Bein stated.

Far from displacing Palestinians, Israel had been the only party actively engaged in rehabilitating them. Since 1967, it had enabled, he said, "tens of thousands of Palestinians to return to Judea, Samaria and Gaza under the family reunification plan". Since 1971, it had rehabilitated more than 150,000 Palestinian refugees in Gaza in the face of strong opposition by the Arab States.

Farouq Qaddoumi, representing Palestine, said that Israel continued to usurp Palestinian land. Settlement and land expropriation remained its dominant policy. Since 1967, more than 200 settlements had been built on the West Bank and in Gaza. Millions of Palestinians remained homeless. The massive organized Jewish emigration from the USSR to Palestine was "a continuation of the Zionist invasion" of the Palestinian lands, and Palestinians would continue to oppose it.

UN Photo 175658

Mr. Belonogov of the USSR, who brought the issue to the Council.

UN Photo

Mr. Bein of Israel.

UN Photo 175659

Mr. Qaddoumi, representing Palestine.

Abdullah Salah of Jordan, on behalf of the Arab Group, said the history of Jewish emigration to Palestine was closely linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and its continuation was a major factor in the persistence of the conflict. It was not fair to allow Jews from all parts of the world to settle in the occupied Arab territories for no reason other than that they were Jewish, while the Palestinian refugees were denied their right to return to their land for no reason other than that they were Palestinians.

Li Luye of China called for an immediate halt to settlements in occupied territory, which constituted a gross violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention. Israel's expansionist policy not only threatened the existence of the Palestinian people and the security of Arab countries, it also aggravated an already tense situation in the Middle East. The actions of the Israeli authorities had erected new barriers to the Middle East peace process and ran completely counter to the prevailing tide on the world scene.

Pierre-Louis Blanc of France said his Government deplored Israel's illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories. While welcoming the new Soviet emigration policy, notably the freedom of Soviet Jews desiring to do so to emigrate to Israel or elsewhere, the exercise of that right must not be to the detriment of the rights of Palestinians. Israel must not compromise peace prospects by allowing any new settlers in the occupied territories.

Thomas L. Richardson of the United Kingdom said that settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories was not only illegal, it was also politically misguided, because it threatened the Middle East peace process. The prospect of those emigrés settling in the occupied territories was an understandable source of concern to the Arab world, especially the Palestinians and the Jordanians. He hoped that a coalition Israeli Government would emerge that was able and willing to contribute to the peace process "by entering into a dialogue with a credible and genuinely representative Palestinian delegation".

Latin American forums call for Middle East peace conference

Participants in two Latin American special meetings on the question of Palestine, both held in Buenos Aires, have called for an early convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The First UN Latin American and Caribbean Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Symposium on the Question of Palestine (5-8 February) and the Fourth Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on the Question of Palestine (5-9 February), meeting in joint sessions, heard addresses by eminent persons and panelists on various aspects of the Palestine question.

Discussions focused on the urgency of convening a Middle East peace conference, and the impact of *intifadah*—the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip—on a settlement of the Middle East conflict; the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the social, cultural, economic and political development of the Palestinian people; and the mobilization of public opinion in the Latin American and Caribbean region for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Representatives of 25 NGOs at the Latin American Symposium in a 34-point Declaration called for the immediate and total dismantling of the settlements established in occupied territories.

They also condemned what they termed repressive practices used by Israel against the Palestinians.

UNIFIL mandate renewed until 31 July 1990

The mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was extended for a further six-month period until 31 July 1990 by a unanimous decision of the Security Council taken on 31 January. The 12-year-old UN peace-keeping force, currently numbering 5,876, is commanded by Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, a national of Sweden.

In its resolution 648 (1990), the Council reiterated strong suport for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. All parties concerned were called on to co-operate fully with the Force, in its tasks of confirming withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security, and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring its effective authority in the area.

The Secretary-General reported *(S/21102)* that UNIFIL remained unable to implement its mandate. Positions occupied by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and those of the *de facto* forces (DFF) or so-called "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) had again increased. Israel had further strengthened its hold on the so-called "security zone"—also known to UNIFIL as the "Israel controlled area" (ICA)—and had introduced there some elements of a civilian administration in which a leading role was given to DFF. Also, attempts by "armed elements" to infiltrate Israel had continued, as had air and ground attacks by the Israeli forces on Lebanese targets well to the north of the UNIFIL area.

UN Photo

The turmoil of armed conflict continues to ravage Lebanon.

He appealed to all parties concerned to co-operate with UNIFIL to both ensure Force members' security and fulfil its mandate.

Lebanon said *(S/21074)* that Israel's continued occupation of the so-called "security zone" in southern Lebanon and its "aggressive and arbitrary practices" against the region and its inhabitants strengthened its conviction that the Force should remain and should be deployed up to Lebanon's internationally recognized borders to ensure Israeli withdrawal.

The mandate renewal was of "special significance", Lebanon said, at a time when the new constitutionally elected Government, with the support of the international community, had embarked on extending its legal authority "on all the Lebanese territory".

The Secretary-General also reported that the financial situation of the Force remained "grave", with total unpaid assessments reaching $318 million—money owed by the UN to Member States that had voluntarily contributed troops to serve in UNIFIL.

Call for Middle East negotiations

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on 9 January called for a "fully concerted and well co-ordinated" international effort to help parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict enter into an effective negotiating process aimed at securing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

He told the first meeting of 1990 of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, held in New York, that the message of the *intifadah*—the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, now in its third year—was that the 22-year-old Israeli occupation would continue to be rejected and that Palestinians would remain committed to their right to self-determination.

"A way must be found, and soon, to begin an effective negotiating process that can restore hope in the possibility that a just and durable peace can be attained", he stated.

Absa Claude Diallo of Senegal, was re-elected Committee Chairman.

No progress on agreement

Security Council supports continuing peace efforts for Cyprus

The Security Council on 12 March called on the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus to pursue their efforts to reach freely a mutually acceptable solution of the problem, providing for a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation, in line with their 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements.

In those agreements, the leaders had pledged themselves to establish a bi-communal Federal Republic of Cyprus that would safeguard its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment, and exclude union, in whole or in part, with any other country and any form of partition or secession.

The Council acted following talks in New York between 26 February and 2 March between Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities—President George Vassiliou of Cyprus and Rauf Denktash.

Afterwards, a spokesman for the Secretary-General reported no progress on drafting an outline of an overall agreement—the main objective of the talks. "Given the high expectations which have been disappointed by the inability to make progress, the Secretary-General appealed to both leaders not to say or do anything that could aggravate the situation in Cyprus", the statement added.

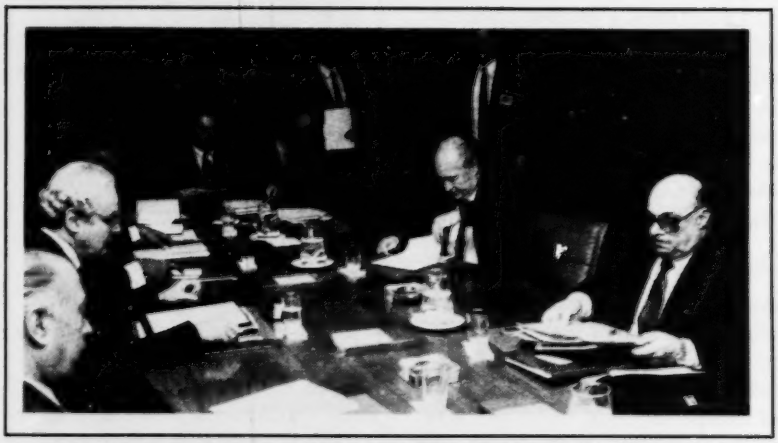
In resolution 649 (1990), adopted unanimously, the Council called on the two leaders to co-operate, on an equal footing, with the Secretary-General in completing, "in the first instance and on an urgent basis", an outline of an overall agreement as agreed in June 1989.

The Secretary-General was asked to pursue his mission of good offices to achieve the earliest possible progress and to "assist the two communities by making suggestions to facilitate the discussions". The Council fully supported the Secretary-General's effort in carrying out his mission of good offices and called on the parties concerned to refrain from any action that could aggravate the situation.

The 15-member body also reaffirmed its support for the 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements. The Secretary-General was asked to inform the Council by 31 May of progress made in resuming the "intensive talks" and in developing an agreed outline of an overall agreement.

In a preambular paragraph, the Council expressed concern that it had not been possible to achieve results in arriving at an agreed outline of an overall agreement at the talks.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar has appealed to the two leaders to remain committed to finding a solution to the problem of Cyprus in the framework of the intercommunal talks. Both leaders assured the Secretary-General that they remain committed to this objective.



UN Photo 175640/M. Grant

The leaders of the two sides *(at right)*—President Vassiliou and Mr. Denktash—meeting with the Secretary-General on 2 March.

Respective interests

In reporting to the Council *(S/21183)*, the Secretary-General said he had told both sides during the talks that they should be prepared to take into account each other's concerns and be willing to harmonize their respective interests. Solutions to all issues had to be found that were acceptable to both sides. They must also respect the cultural, religious, social and linguistic identity of each community.

The Secretary-General stressed that it was important that the talks not be allowed to collapse. He affirmed that a basis for effective negotiations existed, provided both leaders were prepared to take into account each other's concerns and that both were willing to proceed within the framework of the 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements. He would assist the two communities to arrive at an agreed solution.

'Completing the circle'

Decolonization Committee opens 1990 session

The Special Committee on decolonization, at its first meeting of the year on 22 January, elected officials for 1990 and approved its work programme. At the meeting, Secretary-General Javier Peréz de Cuéllar paid tribute to the Committee's role in bringing one of the remaining 19 Non-Self-Governing Territories—Namibia—to the final stage leading to independence.

He said the Committee's work this year would be particularly important because of the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Since 1962, some 45 dependent Territories had exercised their right to self-determination; only 19 Non-Self-Governing Territories remained on the Committee's list.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar described the question of Western Sahara as a major Committee concern.

A number of Caribbean and Pacific island territories were faced with unique problems arising from size, population, geographical isolation and limited economic development, he went on. The Committee had initiated a number of procedures, such as the dispatch of visiting missions, which had enabled the UN to better understand conditions in those Territories.

Tesfaye Tadesse of Ethiopia, re-elected as Committee Chairman, called the exercise of self-determination in Namibia "one of the most important accomplishments of the UN in recent times".

He stressed the need to "complete the circle" by paying due attention to the fate of the remaining Territories.

Elected as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee were Sverre J. Bergh Johansen of Norway, Alexander Slaby of Czechoslovakia and Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada of Cuba. Mohammad Najdat Shaheed of Syria was elected Rapporteur. Mr. Slaby was also elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance. Ghazi Jomaa of Tunisia was elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories.

Argentina, United Kingdom decide to re-establish diplomatic relations

Argentina and the United Kingdom have reported further progress in their dialogue aimed at resolving problems pending between them, including the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

The two Governments, at a meeting in Madrid on 14 and 15 February, decided to re-establish diplomatic relations and agreed on a set of confidence-building measures. The two also declared that they wished "to develop further friendship and co-operation between their two peoples" and reaffirmed their commitment to the formula on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas, as agreed upon on 19 October 1989 in Madrid.

At that time, the two stated that all hostilities between them had ceased and neither would pursue claims for loss or damage against the other. They agreed to re-establish consular relations at the level of Consul General, to normalize their commercial and financial relations, and to resume air and maritime communications between the two countries.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reported *(A/44/692)* that the inability of Argentina and the United Kingdom to enter into a meaningful dialogue "has now been overcome". He particularly welcomed the improvement in their bilateral relations and their renewed commitment to settle disputes exclusively by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force.

In February, the two nations also agreed on confidence-building measures, including an "interim reciprocal information and consultation system" for movements of their military units in the south-west Atlantic; a direct communications link between the Falklands (Malvinas) and the mainland; a set of safety rules for naval and air units when operating in proximity; a mechanism for emergencies to facilitate maritime and air search and rescue; and an information exchange system on the safety and control of air and maritime navigation.

The two countries agreed on measures to expand co-operation in economic, commercial, environmental and humanitarian fields. The United Kingdom also decided to lift the "Protection Zone" it had established around the Falklands (Malvinas).

Trusteeship Mission reports on Palau voting

A five-member United Nations Visiting Mission, which observed a plebiscite in Palau, has reported that 60.8 per cent of those voting now favoured the Compact of Free Association with the United States, that the referendum was conducted freely, fairly and in accordance with the rules, and that its results reflected "the freely expressed wishes of the people of Palau".

The plebiscite was held on the island of Palau on 6 February, with separate plebiscites taking place in off-island Palauan communities on 4 February. During an 11-day visit (31 January-10 February) to Palau, the UN Mission—composed of representatives of France, United Kingdom, China, Fiji and Papua New Guinea—observed the political education campaign, polling arrangements, the casting and counting of ballots, closure of voting and the declaration of results.

The Trusteeship Council on 8 January, at its twentieth special session, decided by a vote of 4 (China, France, United Kingdom, United States) to 1 (USSR) to dispatch the Mission.

The Soviet Union, citing the previous plebiscites in Palau, said that every time the United States did not obtain the results it wished, it pressed for yet another referendum to secure agreement to the Compact "at all costs". The assertion that the people of Micronesia had been given an opportunity freely to exercise their right to self-determination was "completely groundless", it said.

The "so-called covenants and compacts" regarding various parts of the single Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands had been elaborated "behind the back" of the United Nations, in circumvention of the Security Council, and had been imposed in violation of the 1947 Trusteeship Agreement. They therefore could not be regarded as valid. Only the Security Council could alter the status of the Trust Territory or put an end to the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement.

UN Photo 109783

The United States said the freely expressed will of the people always had been and always would be its "sole guide". The Mission's purpose was to observe that the people of Palau were freely determining their own future. It was regretful that the Soviet Union had chosen "to distort the situation in so anachronistic a manner".

Mission report

In reporting to the Trusteeship Council *(T/1942)*, which is to meet in May 1990, the Mission concluded that the poll had been conducted fairly and in secret. Some 68.7 per cent of all eligible voters had voted, with 60.8 per cent of 7,621 valid votes cast favouring the Compact.

The Mission concluded that "in general, the people of Palau understood the purpose of the plebiscite and the question they were being asked". The political campaign was described by the Mission as "extremely low key, peaceful and restrained", with access by both sides to the media and public platforms. There was no evidence of "political tension or of attempts at coercion or intimidation".

There was, however, some dissatisfaction on the part of voters, who showed "evident weariness" at being asked to give their views yet again and "some indifference" to the outcome of the plebiscite.

Background

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, known also as Micronesia, is one of the original—and the last of—11 Trust Territories under the International Trusteeship System and was designated a "strategic area" under the UN Charter. Because of that special status, the Trusteeship Council reports annually to the Security Council about conditions there.

Part of Micronesia, Palau is the Territory's only entity whose political status is still undecided. The Trust Territory's three other entities have already clarified their relationship with the United States. Compacts with the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as well as the Covenant with the Northern Mariana Islands, all entered into force late in 1986.

Prior to the February 1990 plebiscite, six referendums had been held on the Compact. In each, a majority supported the Compact, but fewer than the 75 per cent required by the Palauan Constitution because of provisions relating to nuclear activity in the area.

On 12 December 1989, United States President George Bush signed into law House Joint Resolution 175 of the United States Congress authorizing entry into force of the Compact between the United States and Palau, subject to approval by the people of Palau.

'A faster pace'

Conference on Disarmament urged to speed work on chemical weapons ban

As the Conference on Disarmament opened its 1990 session on 6 February, it heard a renewed appeal from Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to intensify negotiations on an international convention banning chemical weapons. Political consensus in 1989 had advanced in the international community on the urgent need to agree on such a document, he said.

The Secretary-General told the 40-member Geneva-based body that new opportunities were available to pursue "more meaningful measures in the field of arms limitations and disarmament". The wide spectrum of bilateral and multilateral negotiations under way generated hope that the current trend would become irreversible, allowing the process of disarmament to proceed at a faster pace.

A complete ban on nuclear-test explosions, he said, could pave the way to nuclear disarmament and rid the world of the nuclear menace. The Conference had an irreplaceable role to play in that respect; it could not renounce its responsibilities as to considering issues of nuclear disarmament and prevention of nuclear war.

Emeka Ayo Azikiwe of Nigeria, Conference President for March, recalled that over the years several disarmament agreements had been concluded within the multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, all of them in the context of the Conference of the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. The present Conference had not yet been able to achieve similar results. But never since 1962 had there been "a situation so rich in opportunities for successful disarmament negotiations", he declared.

During February and March, the Conference re-established four *ad hoc* committees to deal with issues related to chemical weapons, radiological weapons, prevention of an arms race in outer space and international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

On 29 March, it decided that informal meetings would be held in 1990 on issues related to cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, and prevention of nuclear war. President Azikiwe described those meetings as "a reflection of the beginning of adjustments in the Conference to the new international situation". He had prepared a list of some 20 topics to facilitate a structured discussion at the meetings.

The Conference did not reach agreement on how to deal with the agenda item on a nuclear-test ban.

Sweden again proposed adding an item on prevention of incidents on the high seas. It also favoured negotiations on sea-borne nuclear weapons, naval confidence-building measures and modernization of the laws of sea warfare. Pakistan proposed a new item on the regional dimension of disarmament.

Hendrik Wagenmakers of the Netherlands, President for February, described the unprecedented high number of non-members participating in Conference work as a significant step towards securing universal participation in the elaboration and acceptance of any agreement concluded in the Conference.

The Conference, the world's single forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations, holds a two-part session each year, the first part from February through April and the second from June through

UN Photo 149785

August. Its *ad hoc* committees try to elaborate new instruments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

'Finishing touches'

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Chemical Weapons, meeting in Geneva from 16 January to 1 February, continued work on a draft convention banning development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and calling for their destruction.

Committee Chairman Pierre Morel of France said the body had put the "finishing touches" on some texts, including a protocol on inspection procedures, which replaces guidelines on the international inspectorate. The text outlines a code regulating practical arrangements for inspections, the precise conduct of inspectors and the obligations of States.

Articles relating to duration and withdrawal, deposit of instruments of ratification and accession, and languages and authentic texts were completed. The Committee defined the composition and functions of the scientific advisory board and revised a text dealing with specific conditions governing the limited production of certain types of prohibited chemicals. Also considered were questions of challenge inspections and security during the destruction period.

Chairman Morel believed the document should be regarded as "a whole which has already begun to settle into coherence and balance".

The German Democratic Republic proposed convening a meeting of the Conference at the foreign minister level in order to give "a powerful boost" to the final drafting of the chemical weapons convention.

The Netherlands, Austria and Belgium reiterated their offers to host the proposed Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, to be established under a future convention.

Bilateral progress

The Soviet Union and the United States transmitted to the Conference joint documents adopted at meetings in Wyoming, United States, on 23 September 1989 and in Moscow on 10 February 1990.

In joint statements, the two States:

- Reiterated their commitment to conclude and bring into force a chemical weapons convention as soon as possible;
- Announced their intention, simultaneous with negotiations on a global ban, to work out a bilateral agreement on reciprocal obligations, pending the international convention, including the destruction of the bulk of their chemical weapons stocks to equal low levels;
- As part of that agreement, would co-operate on safe destruction technology;
- Agreed to reciprocal visits to monitor destruction operations of the other side, and to the exchange of information on past, current and planned destruction activities;
- Committed themselves to reduce further their chemical weapons stocks down to a very small fraction of present holdings during the first eight years after a chemical weapons convention entered into force, and to complete elimination during the subsequent two years, if possible;
- Agreed that, upon a convention's entry into force, it should provide for a halt to all chemical weapons production; and
- Agreed to work out common principles that would guide their efforts to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons.

The two countries also signed a memorandum of understanding in Wyoming regarding a two-phase bilateral verification experiment and data exchange. Phase one, already under way, involves the exchange of general data on each side's chemical weapons capabilities and a series of visits to relevant military and civil facilities on their respective territories. In phase two, the nations would exchange more detailed data and permit on-site inspections to verify the accuracy of information exchanged.

Reduction of naval confrontation subject of Moscow seminar

The first international seminar on naval arms limitation and reduction of naval activities in the world ocean, held in Moscow from 6 to 10 February, called for a dialogue to reduce naval confrontation and strengthen stability and confidence on the high seas.

Sponsored by the Soviet Peace Committee, the Soviet Peace Fund and several other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the seminar brought together more than 370 statesmen, military men, scholars and public figures from some 40 countries.

Participants voiced concern over what was called the unabated naval arms race and slow progress in the field of naval disarmament. Governments were urged to re-orient their naval strategies towards defensive purposes and to reduce naval confrontation by separating large naval forces, including submarines.

There was support for a new convention on prevention of incidents on and over the high seas, a world conference on naval disarmament and reduction of naval activities; establishment of UN naval forces to help maintain peace in various regions; a world centre to co-ordinate efforts aimed at restraining naval confrontation; and measures to reduce pollution of the world's oceans.

Charter Committee reports progress regarding UN fact-finding process

UN Photo 145644/Y. Nagata

The Special Committee has been meeting annually since 1976.

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, at its 1990 session, reported progress in its work on fact-finding by the UN and approved recommendations on rationalization of existing UN procedures.

During a three-week session (New York, 12 February-2 March), the Committee also considered issues related to peaceful settlement of disputes among States, including progress on a draft handbook prepared by the Secretariat on the issue.

The session was marked by an intensified search for practical ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization. A number of new ideas were put forward, including a working paper *(A/AC.182/L.65)* in which the USSR made several new proposals, including how to expand co-operation between the UN and regional organizations and broaden the peace-making efforts by the Secretary-General.

Carl-August Fleischhauer, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the UN Legal Counsel, said the Committee's mission was extremely important, as the

maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes affected the very purpose of the United Nations. The role of the Organization, which the Committee must strengthen, raised "highly sensitive" questions, at the core of which was the question of the advancement of the role of law in international relations.

Committee Chairman Andreas Mavrommatis of Cyprus said that recent developments, especially in Europe, had not only brought about an improved political climate in the world, but had also imposed an obligation on the Committee to produce quick results.

The 47-member Committee, which meets annually, was created by the General Assembly on 15 December 1975 to consider suggestions regarding the UN Charter and the Organization's role in maintaining international peace and security *(see box)*.

UN fact-finding

A revised working paper on UN fact-finding was submitted by Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and Spain in 1989. Also reviewed was another revised text on the same subject, put forward by Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic, also in 1989.

After joint discussions, a unified document *(A/AC.182/L.66)* was prepared, stressing that the UN, to maintain international peace, should consider undertaking fact-finding activities. Fact-finding was defined as "any activity designed to ascertain facts which the competent UN organs need to exercise effectively their functions" in maintaining international peace and security, and should be "comprehensive, objective and impartial".

Among other suggestions:

- While fact-finding missions might be undertaken by the Security Council, the General Assembly or the Secretary-General, preference should be given to the Secretary-General, who could designate a special representative or a group of experts to report to him.
- The Secretary-General, on his own initiative or at the request of States concerned, should consider undertaking such missions in areas where a situation exists which may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security. Such information could be brought to the attention of the Security Council.
- Special attention should be given to using UN fact-finding capabilities as early as possible. Lists of experts should be kept current and capabilities for emergency fact-finding maintained and developed.
- States should bring any situation likely to threaten international peace and security to the attention of a competent UN organ, and should admit UN fact-finding missions to their territory.
- States should co-operate with, and assist, UN fact-finding missions, which should enjoy all freedoms and facilities needed to discharge their mandate.
- A world-wide survey of the state of international peace and security should be made to help prevent situations which might threaten international peace and security. Early warnings of such situations should be enhanced. The Secretary-General should fully use and strengthen the Secretariat's information-gathering capabilities. UN information centres might collect publicly available information related to international peace and security.

Special Committee on Charter: Background

In 1974, the General Assembly established an *Ad Hoc* Committee to review the UN Charter and to consider ways, without amending the Charter, to make the Organization more effective. The following year, the Assembly decided to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Committee as a 47-member Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

The Special Committee has met annually since 1976 to consider the peaceful settlement of international disputes, the rationalization of existing UN procedures and the maintenance of international peace and security.

In 1982, it successfully negotiated the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes. In 1988, the General Assembly approved the Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this Field, as drafted by the Special Committee. The following year, the Assembly drew attention of States to a document on the resort to a commission of good offices, mediation or conciliation within the UN, also prepared by the Committee.

Current Committee Members are: Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

Soviet proposals

The Soviet working paper calls for expanding co-operation with regional organizations in efforts to "create a healthier political climate". Mechanisms and safeguards of regional security should be developed. The permanent members of the Security Council could act as "guarantors" in that respect by committing themselves never to use force or the threat of force and by renouncing such practices as military "demonstrations" and supplying arms to parties in conflict.

To broaden his peace-making efforts, the Secretary-General could submit information, including confidential information, to the Security Council on a regular basis about developments in any area of conflict, and more frequently exercise his right under Article 99 of the UN Charter to bring to the Council's attention any matter threatening international peace and security.

The Special Committee could also examine the Secretary-General's proposal on establishing, under UN auspices, a centre for reducing the risk of war.

Other tasks suggested for the Special Committee:

- Elaborating a draft general instrument on peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as a long-term programme on developing international law within the framework of the UN Decade of International Law (the 1990s).
- Considering enforcement actions against a State breaching the peace or failing to comply with Security Council resolutions.
- Exploring how to broaden the sphere of application of preventive UN activities, including prevention of potentially explosive situations caused by internal socio-economic and other factors.
- Forming, under UN auspices, an extensive network to monitor, collect and process information on the situation in areas of conflict.
- Considering ways to strengthen the collective security régime provided for in the UN Charter.

UN procedures

After six years of work, the Special Committee completed a draft document on rationalization of existing UN procedures.

It was recommended, *inter alia*, that:

- Before an Assembly session ends, the General Committee should formulate observations on the organization of the session's work to facilitate the work of future sessions.
- The Assembly agenda should be simplified by grouping or merging related items and setting an interval of two or more years for the discussions of some issues.
- When electronic voting is available for recording votes, a roll-call vote should not be requested.

UN Photo 157241

Fact-finding—always an important element in delicate political negotiations—is currently stressed in the Committee's work. Shown here are UN staff members on a mission in Managua.

1989 achievements in space noted by UN Committee

Significant achievements in outer space in 1989 were noted by John Carver of Australia, Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at the opening of a two-week session in New York (26 February-9 March).

TASS Photo/A. Pushkarev

Soviet cosmonauts and American astronauts meet, on 12 February 1990, in the USSR spaceport at Baikonur, Kazakhstan.

Among them were:

▶ The launching in May by the United States of the Magellan spacecraft headed for Venus, and in October, the Galileo spacecraft travelling to Jupiter.

▶ The completion in August 1989 of the 12-year journey of the United States Voyager 2 spacecraft, circumnavigating Neptune and completing reconnaissance of the four largest planets of the solar system—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

▶ A 22-week mission—involving the first American experiment aboard the Soviet orbital station MIR, conducted by two Soviet cosmonauts—was concluded safely on 19 February 1990.

▶ The successful docking in December 1989 of a new Kvant 2 module with the Soviet space complex MIR, significantly increasing its research capabilities.

▶ A series of successful launchings in 1989 by the European Space Agency's (ESA) Ariane programme.

In reviewing national space prospects, Mr. Carver noted a number of other new or continuing efforts by the two main space Powers—the United States and the Soviet Union.

For example, in 1989, the United States had launched expendable launch vehicles, some placing satellites into orbit for other countries. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) also

launched the scientific satellite Cosmic Background Explorer to investigate remnant radiation from the early stages of the universe.

The USSR launched some unmanned spacecraft for communications, meteorology and remote sensing, including a satellite to operate as part of the COSPAS/SARSAT search and rescue satellite system. To date, that system had been credited with saving more than 1,350 lives throughout the world.

The USSR also placed the "Granat" orbital observatory—its first dedicated X-ray and gamma-ray satellite, also an international laboratory—into a high ellipical orbit for artificial earth satellites. It carried scientific instruments from the USSR, France, Denmark and Bulgaria.

Also in 1989, 11,120 kilos of payload were launched into orbit; and more than 5,000 experiments were carried out. In 1990, apparatus were tested to enable cosmonauts to walk in space.

The USSR in 1989 also launched a bio-satellite, engaged in biological projects involving two monkeys, including a study on how the body adapts to weightlessness.

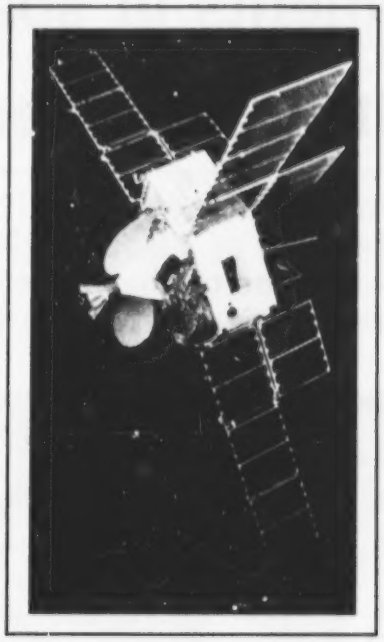
Also, the United States and the USSR reached agreement on efforts to initiate co-operative medical and life-sciences research on both the space shuttle and the MIR space station.

Other strides

Other countries also reported strides in space activities. Austria continued a joint project called AUSTROMIR with the USSR, and it was participating in the ESA remote-sensing satellite ERS-1 follow-up programme.

ESA was to launch in late 1990 or early 1991 a radar-mapping satellite to facilitate remote sensing in all types of weather.

Czechoslovakia in 1989 launched the MAGION-2 satellite, a project



in co-operation with the USSR and some other countries.

The Federal Republic of Germany was completing plans for a station in the Antarctic region to directly receive data from ERS-1.

The German Democratic Republic, since October 1989, had regularly launched meteorological rockets from a ground station at Zingst, to determine temperatures and winds at altitudes of up to 75 kilometres. It also focused on comet Halley-related investigations, scientific interpretation of data from Phobos missions, and on preparation of the "Aktivny" experiment.

On 14 February 1989, Japan launched the scientific satellite Akebono to study the earth's magnetosphere, and on 5 September, it launched the dedicated meteorological satellite Himawari 4.

Japan's MUSES-A satellite, launched in January 1990, provided data for new technologies necessary for future interplanetary missions. A joint project to construct a permanently manned space station was under way with the participation of the United States, Japan, Canada and European nations.

On 1 March 1989, Canada announced the creation of a new national space agency.

China in 1989 conducted experiments involving remote-sensing to monitor flooding of the Yellow and Yangtze River areas. It continued development of remote sensors for use in resource and environmental investigation, and set up some 10,000 television ground receiving stations. Plans for a joint China-Brazil earth resource satellite were in progress.

India's remote-sensing satellite IRS-1A, launched in March 1988, was to mark its second anniversary in orbit. India and the USSR continued their collaboration on the Dynamics Adapted Network for Atmospheric Research (DYANA), measuring meteorological parameters and ozone concentrations in the middle atmosphere using balloons and rockets.

In late 1989, INTELSAT—the International Telecommunications Satelite Organization—launched and deployed the first INTELSAT VI satellite, scheduled to be fully operational by April 1990. Its aim is to provide unrivalled capacity and lifetime for voice, video and data transmission through advanced digital modulation techniques.

Future projects

Future projects were also discussed in the Sub-Committee.

Beginning in April 1990, using the "Crystal" module, Soviet cosmonauts on the MIR complex were to carry out experiments involving weightlessness. Cosmonauts from the United Kingdom, Austria and Japan are scheduled to participate in space flights on board MIR in 1991 and 1992.

The United States reported that nine shuttle launches were scheduled for 1990 and eight for 1991. Work continued on an advanced solid rocket motor, and on an

extended duration orbiter, to increase the shuttle's on-orbit time from 7 to 16 days.

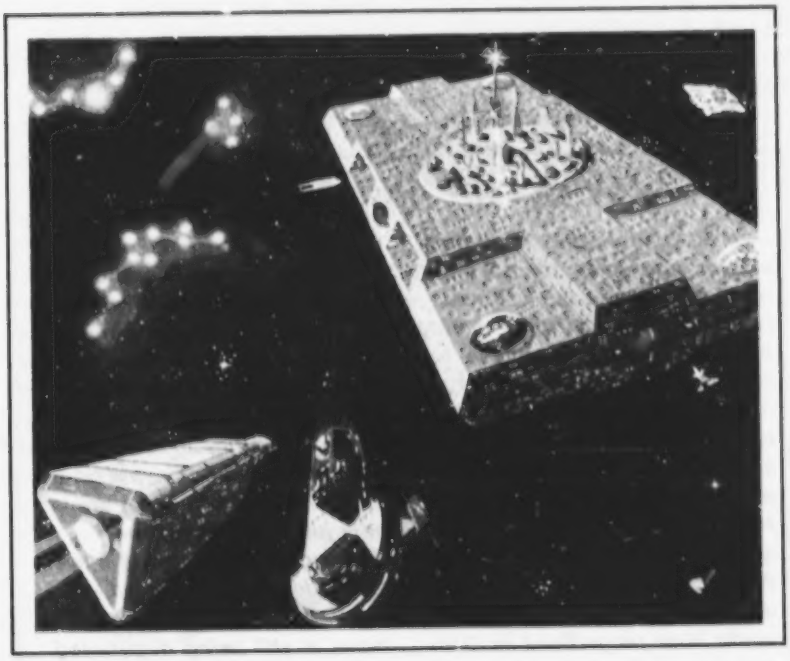
The United States was also developing, in co-operation with Italy, a tethered satellite system to conduct electrodynamic and atmospheric missions in difficult-to-reach areas of space. Work also proceeded on an orbital maneuvering vehicle (OMV)—a small, versatile craft designed to deliver payloads to higher altitudes. The first OMV launch is scheduled for early 1995.

A Gamma-ray observatory and the Roentgen satellite mission were to be launched in 1990, and the Extreme Ultra-Violet Explorer in 1991. The Ulysses mission, scheduled for 1990, was to encounter Jupiter "for a gravity assist on its way to the Sun". The spacecraft for Ulysses has been provided by ESA.

The Hubble Space Telescope, a joint project with the ESA, scheduled for launch in April 1990, was described as the most advanced instrument ever made to observe distant objects in the universe. The Mars Observer spacecraft, to be launched in 1992, would spend one Martian year—or 687 Earth days—mapping the planet's surface, measuring gravity and magnetic fields, and assessing weather patterns from a "close-in" low polar orbit.

A Mariner Mark II spacecraft—the Comet Rendezvous Asteroid Flyby (CRAF)—was scheduled for launch in 1995, to study and photograph a main belt asteroid and ultimately a rendezvous with the Comet "Kopff" in August 2000.

A second Mariner Mark II mission—Cassini—also in co-operation with ESA—was planned for launch in 1996, to journey to Saturn. Its arrival date is scheduled for October 2002.



Artwork by Jean-Felix Lyon of Nice, France.

Environmental projects

The USSR, which conducts a scientific programme to monitor ozone changes, particularly over the polar regions, has proposed development of an international space laboratory and invited interested States to participate in that endeavour. In 1989, it had employed a supply module to deliver space equipment and carry out scientific experiments aimed at measuring particle flows from outer space towards earth and at calculating spectral characteristics of earth, particularly with regard to its ozone level.

NASA was planning a series of missions with ESA and Japan as part of the International Solar Terrestrial Physics Programme. The objective is to track solar energy from its source through space as it reaches and passes Earth.

The United States continued to procure, operate and maintain the spacecraft and ground system components of two operational environmental satellite systems: a polar-orbiting satellite system to collect and distribute global environmental data and a geostationary system to provide near-continuous observations of the earth's western hemisphere in support of weather warnings, forecasts and other applications.

To assure future global environmental coverage, the United States was planning co-operative projects with European nations and Japan. The United States was also funding continued operation of Landsat satellites 4 and 5 and a launch of Landsat 6. Landsat-type imagery data is used in global change research, environmental monitoring and natural resources management.

Sea Law Commission

Training programme for Enterprise to be in place by 1991

The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, at its spring session (Kingston, 5-30 March), adopted measures to put in place by 1991 the training programme for the future Enterprise—the sea-bed mining arm of the Authority. The Commission had approved the training programme in 1989.

The training programme—covering all aspects of sea-bed mining activities—aims to help the Enterprise recruit highly qualified personnel. It will be carried out in close co-operation between registered pioneer investors—so far France, India, Japan and the Soviet Union—and certifying States on the one hand, and the Commission, on the other.

A 15-member expert panel will be established, representing appropriate fields, to elaborate a training schedule, select trainees from a register, evaluate performance reports, and establish procedures for the programme's administration.

The training panel is to be established within the year, and will match training candidates nominated by member States with offers of traineeships on the part of the registered pioneer investors. Information on relevant training programmes in industrialized countries will be compiled.

In recognition of investments already made in sea-bed mining research, development and exploration, the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea decided, in its resolution II, to establish a special régime to govern "pioneer activities" by States or entities which would be registered as "pioneer investors" by the Preparatory Commission.

To qualify as a pioneer investor, a State or an enterprise must have spent at least $30 million on sea-bed activities as of 1 January 1983. Developing countries—other than India—now have until the entry into force of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to fulfil this condition.

Registered pioneer investors have an exclusive right to explore designated areas of the international sea-bed (in the north-east Pacific in the case of France, Japan and the Soviet Union, and in the Indian Ocean in the case of India), as well as priority treatment when it comes to authorizing actual sea-bed mining.

Registration also carries with it certain responsibilities and obligations, including a proposed $1 million annual fee, transfer of technology, and training personnel for the Enterprise.

'Beyond expectations'

Commission Chairman José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde said results achieved at the session had gone beyond his expectations. He reported that the informal plenary had finished the second reading of the draft Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Authority. It had also finished a first reading of the draft Protocol on the Authority's Privileges and Immunities.

Informal consultations on hard-core issues such as the nature and status of observers, the need for subsidiary organs to the Authority's

Who can mine where?

Of all the minerals known to exist in and under the seas the most valuable at the moment is oil: about one fifth of total production comes from the continental shelf within 200 miles of the coast of about 75 countries and under relatively shallow water. Many such areas have not yet been tapped, and vast reserves are suspected under much deeper water. Techniques for mining under deeper and deeper water have progressed in leaps and bounds in recent years.

Nodules rich in nickel, manganese, copper and cobalt are the most valuable resource now known in the international sea-bed area. They lie on the ocean floor under water thousands of feet deep. Techniques for bringing them to the surface and of extracting the minerals from them are only just coming off the drawing boards. Who will eventually do the mining and extracting, and under what conditions, is still being negotiated.

Assembly and the composition, functions and competence of the Authority's Finance Committee, had also been discussed. Substantial progress had been made on the Committee's status, the appointment of its members, the criteria for membership and the Committee's functions.

Substantial progress was also reported on implementation of resolution II—which ensures that pioneer investors would receive mining contracts from the Authority. The gap between differing points of view had narrowed considerably, and he hoped that that trend would continue during the Commission's resumed session (New York, 13-31 August), when it will also hold a seminar on the protection of the marine environment.

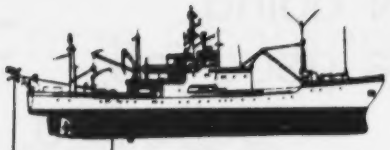
Environment concerns

The importance of the protection and preservation of the environment was highlighted at the session. It was emphasized that the Commission, in its task of overseeing sea-bed activities, should follow closely world-wide developments in that field.

Established in 1982, the Commission is to make all arrangements for the proper functioning of the Authority and the Tribunal, which will come into existence following entry into force of the Law of the Sea Convention. As of 1 March 1990, the Convention had received 42 of 60 ratifications or accessions required for its entry into force.

Four special commissions

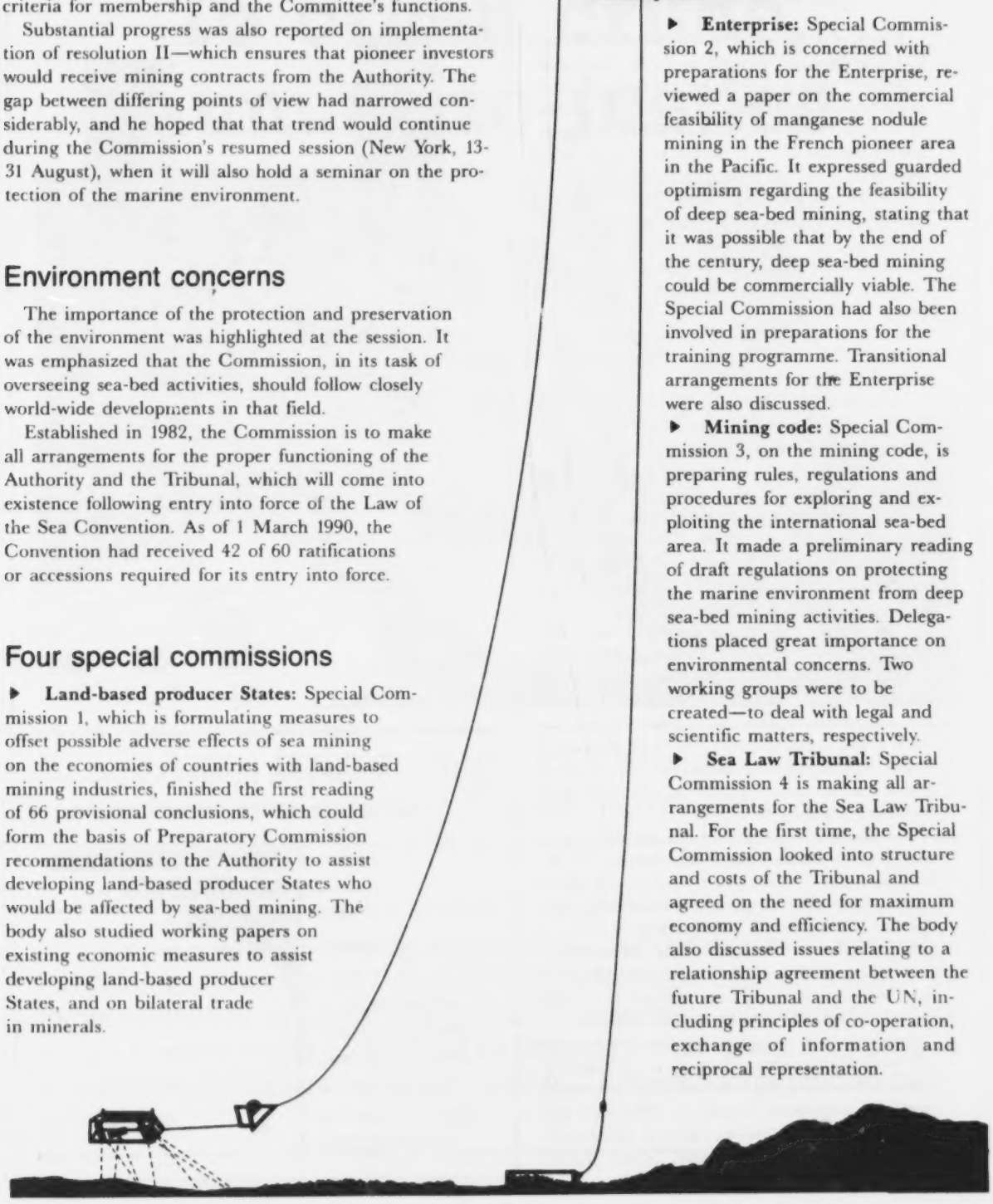
▸ **Land-based producer States:** Special Commission 1, which is formulating measures to offset possible adverse effects of sea mining on the economies of countries with land-based mining industries, finished the first reading of 66 provisional conclusions, which could form the basis of Preparatory Commission recommendations to the Authority to assist developing land-based producer States who would be affected by sea-bed mining. The body also studied working papers on existing economic measures to assist developing land-based producer States, and on bilateral trade in minerals.



▸ **Enterprise:** Special Commission 2, which is concerned with preparations for the Enterprise, reviewed a paper on the commercial feasibility of manganese nodule mining in the French pioneer area in the Pacific. It expressed guarded optimism regarding the feasibility of deep sea-bed mining, stating that it was possible that by the end of the century, deep sea-bed mining could be commercially viable. The Special Commission had also been involved in preparations for the training programme. Transitional arrangements for the Enterprise were also discussed.

▸ **Mining code:** Special Commission 3, on the mining code, is preparing rules, regulations and procedures for exploring and exploiting the international sea-bed area. It made a preliminary reading of draft regulations on protecting the marine environment from deep sea-bed mining activities. Delegations placed great importance on environmental concerns. Two working groups were to be created—to deal with legal and scientific matters, respectively.

▸ **Sea Law Tribunal:** Special Commission 4 is making all arrangements for the Sea Law Tribunal. For the first time, the Special Commission looked into structure and costs of the Tribunal and agreed on the need for maximum economy and efficiency. The body also discussed issues relating to a relationship agreement between the future Tribunal and the UN, including principles of co-operation, exchange of information and reciprocal representation.



UN doing a good job, polls find

Results of public opinion polls released on 4 April by Under-Secretary-General for Public Information Thérèse P. Sévigny showed that a majority of people in Australia, Canada, Mexico, South Africa and the 12 member countries of the European Community believe that the UN's performance is good rather than poor.

UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar commented that the polls' results were "very encouraging". The general public now recognized that the UN is succeeding as an institution for the resolution of conflict and the promotion of peace in the world, he stated.

The polls were conducted in the second half of 1989 on behalf of the Department of Public Information (DPI).

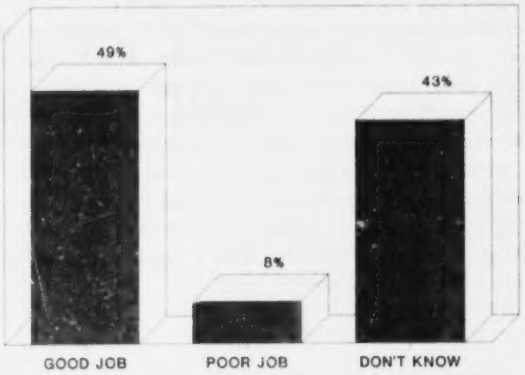
People thought well of the performance of the UN in all countries polled. Around half of all people surveyed in Australia, Canada, Mexico and the European Community as a whole said the UN was doing a good job, while no more than 25 per cent in any country felt it was doing a poor job. Those findings were consistent with a poll conducted in the United States at the beginning of 1989, which also showed more Americans felt the UN was doing a good job.

That was a significant improvement over 1985, when polls conducted in Australia, Canada, the United States and six European countries showed less support for the view that the UN is doing a good job. The only exception to the positive results for the UN was in South Africa, where 39 per cent of whites living in urban areas said the UN was doing a poor job, as compared to 23 per cent who felt it was doing a good job.

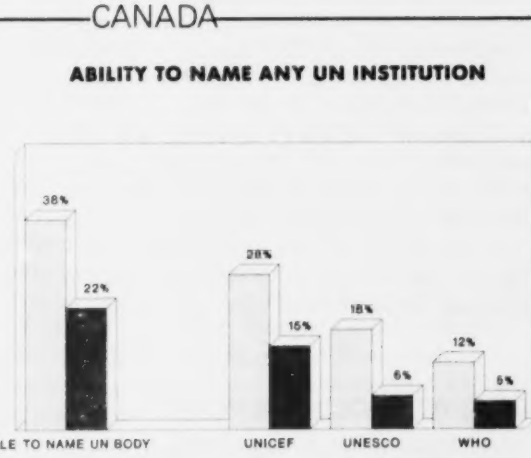
The publication of these polls came during a period which has seen major achievements for the UN, particularly in the peace-keeping and peace-making fields. Reasons given by persons of the view that the UN is doing a good job largely reflected their perception of the Organization's achievements in those areas. Those of the opposite view believed there were too many national interests at play for the UN to reach agreement and be effective.

Environmental protection was the most popular UN issue. Human rights, drug abuse, international peace and security, children and crime prevention were also considered important. Television and newspapers were the main sources of information about the UN in all countries polled. Radio, magazines and books were other sources.

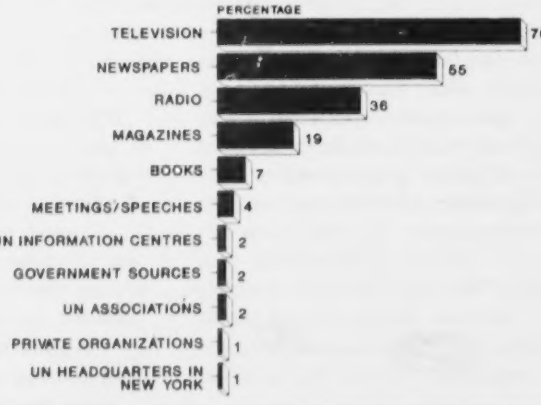
MEXICO



CANADA



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



Preview: Eighth UN Crime Congress

To crush crime, humanize justice

UN Photo

Crime fighters meet in Havana, Cuba
27 August–7 September 1990

A new breed of crime fighters from all over the world will assemble in Havana, Cuba, from 27 August to 7 September 1990, in a major international effort to hinder the growth of criminality everywhere—from petty or violent street crime bred by drug addiction, poverty or despair to increasingly sophisticated "white collar" crimes and organized crime syndicates.

Hundreds of ambassadors and other diplomats and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations will join police chiefs, wardens, criminologists, attorneys, judges and ministers of interior and justice, among others, in this global exercise against crime—the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

"International Co-operation in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the 21st Century" is the theme of the Eighth Congress. Its five-point substantive agenda deals with international terrorism and organized crime, especially drug trafficking, juvenile justice conditions for prisoners worldwide, and community-based alternatives to traditional imprisonment.

At least 14 new international documents pertaining to crime prevention and control, including five model treaties, are expected to be approved, and the creation of a world crime foundation is to be considered.

The Congress will also focus on ways to combat crimes against the cultural patrimony and the environment, governmental corruption and organized crime, money laundering and financial fraud.

It will continue the process of humanization of criminal justice that began in 1955 when the first UN Crime Congress adopted a landmark bill of rights for inmates —a set of Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

In the Cuban capital, participants will also seek to replace the traditional approach to criminal justice with a more comprehensive one that takes into account social, political and economic factors.

Overcrowded prisons and the spread of acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) among inmates may lend a particular poignancy to debates on prison management. Preventive measures, particularly for juveniles, will be stressed.

UN Photo

To improve juvenile justice...

Thriving transnational criminality

"The key importance of the Congress derives from the fact that transnational criminality has become one of the most pressing problems confronting contemporary society", Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reported to the forty-fourth General Assembly session.

Transnational criminality "is thriving at unprecedented levels and in ways previously unheard of", he added. It threatens the lives, security and property of individuals and communities, and has profound political implications.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stated that violence within nations and across national boundaries strains public institutions because of the social and political upheaval it causes, "most brutally epitomized in terrorism". World-wide trafficking in drugs and other forms of organized crime are especially serious manifestations of this phenomenon, he said.

"Criminality, once traditionally regarded as being of purely domestic concern, can no longer be tackled by Governments individually.

The anti-crime agenda

The following items are on the provisional agenda for the Eighth Congress:

- **Topic 1:** *Crime and Development*—Crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development: realities and perspectives of international co-operation
- **Topic 2:** *Prison and Alternatives*—Criminal justice policies in relation to problems of imprisonment, other penal sanctions and alternative measures
- **Topic 3:** *Organized Crime and Terrorism*—Effective national and international action against *(a)* organized crime; and *(b)* terrorist criminal activities
- **Topic 4:** *Juvenile Justice*—Prevention of delinquency, juvenile justice and the protection of the young: policy approaches and directions
- **Topic 5:** *United Nations Guidelines*—United Nations norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice: implementation and priorities for further standard setting.

Its political, economic, social, cultural and human costs can only be substantially reduced by nations acting in concert", the Secretary-General concluded.

Ground-breaking work

UN Crime Congresses have met every five years since the first one in Geneva in 1955. They have played a crucial role in the formulation of international instruments in that field. The Seventh Congress (Milan, Italy, 1985) adopted a ground-breaking declaration seeking compassionate and respectful treatment for victims of crime and abuse of power.

The Eighth Congress will assess how countries are applying measures recommmended by past conclaves, in particular the Milan gathering. In addition to the Milan Plan of Action, which focuses on crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development, the Seventh Congress adopted guidelines for crime prevention in the context of development, and instruments on juvenile justice ("The Beijing Rules"), independence of the judiciary, and transfer and treatment of foreign prisoners.

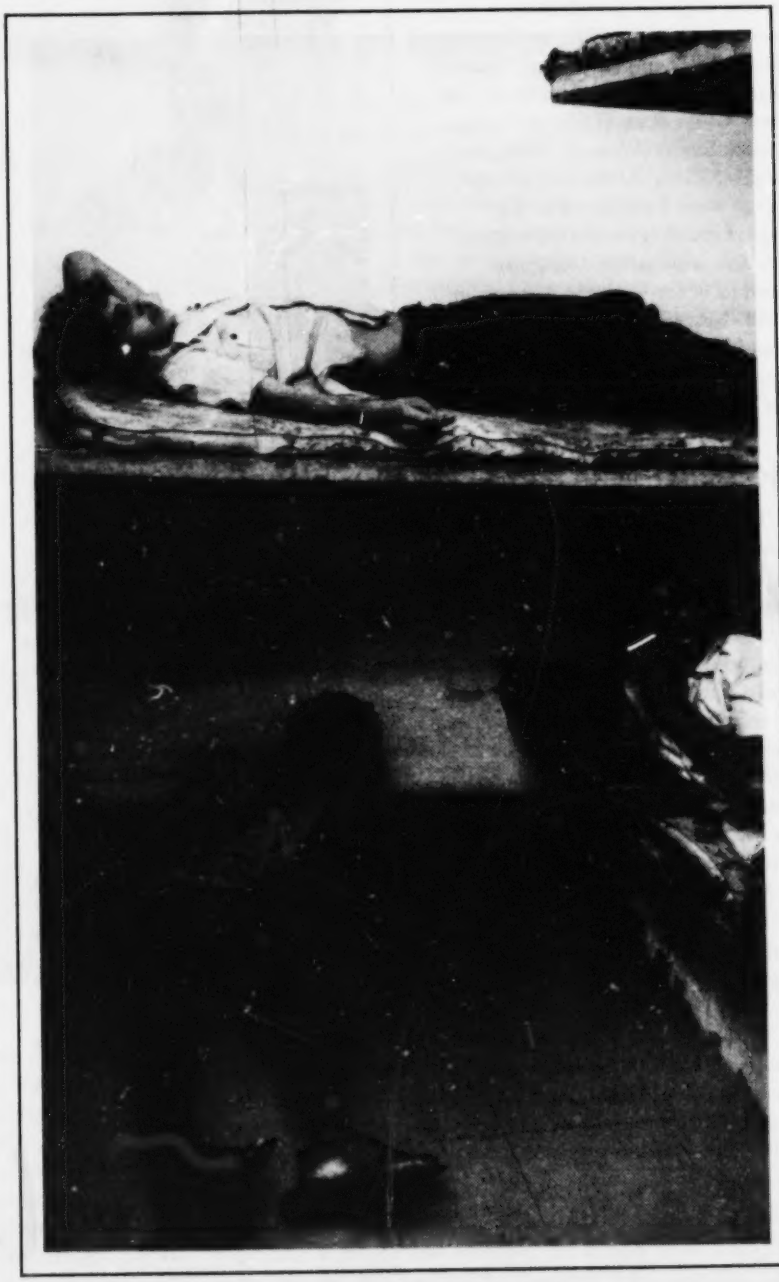
Five new treaties

The 14 major texts expected to be approved include five model treaties: on prevention of crime against cultural heritage, extradition, mutual assistance in judicial matters, transfer of supervision of offenders, and transfer of criminal proceedings.

Other texts would set guidelines on the role of lawyers and prosecutors, use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials, prevention of juvenile delinquency, protection of juveniles deprived of their liberty, and non-custodial measures. An inventory of measures for crime prevention, a manual on measures against corruption, another on computerization of criminal justice, and a guide for practitioners dealing with victims are also to be submitted to the Congress.

These documents, along with 10 draft resolutions on issues ranging from urban crime and sentencing policies to protection of human rights of victims of crime and abuse of power and computerization of criminal justice, were recommended by the UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control as it wound up preparations for the Eighth Congress.

At its eleventh session (Vienna, 5-16 February), the body also adopted three resolutions by consensus—one proposing a world foundation for crime control and assistance to victims—and recommended a text on prison education



UN Photo 154974

and five other drafts for action by its parent body, the Economic and Social Council.

The proposed foundation would provide funds for international crime control programmes and raise global awareness of crime, crime trends and victim issues.

Most proposals adopted by the Committee resulted from the work of five regional preparatory meetings held in 1989, in Bangkok, Thailand (Asia); Helsinki, Finland (Europe and North America); San José, Costa Rica (Latin America); Cairo, Egypt (Western Asia); and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Africa). Some were formulated at five expert meetings—one on each of the five substantive Congress agenda items—held in Vienna in 1988. More than 600 participants from 129 countries and a large number of organizations attended the regional meetings.

How to improve UN work

The Eighth Congress will discuss how to improve UN work in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including the possibility of establishing a new agency or at least upgrading the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Vienna-based UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Branch—with a small staff and budget—currently serves as the focal point for all UN anti-crime activities.

Available multilateral mechanisms to help countries fight crime and improve their justice systems are "grossly inadequate", the Committee on Crime Prevention reported.

Traditionally, most co-operation has been bilateral, it said. But "sophisticated international criminals may make a mockery of bilateral arrangements, moving their administrative and financial operations from one country to another, and staying ahead of frustrated diplomats attempting to work out a string of bilateral agreements".

UN Photo

Drug smuggling... a growing international crime

The Committee recommended an expansion of UN advisory and technical aid, paired with an energetic fund-raising campaign.

The United Nations, it stated, is the only existing entity with the mandate and international constituency needed to provide countries "with effective assistance in preventing and controlling national and transnational crime". However, it lacks "the organizational capacity to fully and effectively discharge this responsibility", it concluded.

Although it has not been given the means to do so efficiently, the United Nations has been mandated to assist countries in reducing crime levels, set basic standards for the administration of justice, prevent victimization and protect the rights of victims, promote humane treatment of offenders, foster viable crime prevention and criminal justice policies, and improve the collection and dissemination of information on these issues.

Closing the gaps

Sophisticated criminals have mastered the art of slipping through the cracks created by diverging justice systems. Closing those juridical gaps has been a major concern of all seven UN anti-crime congresses. The Eighth Congress is expected to adopt the following draft model treaties:

To catch a culture thief

A model treaty to prevent crimes against the cultural heritage:

Outlaws the import of "movable cultural property" if stolen from a museum or public monument or if export is specifically forbidden by the originating State. Property taken without authorization will be confiscated and returned.

UN Photo 146319/J. Frank

"Movable cultural property" includes products of archeological explorations; ancient objects; parts of historical monuments; materials of anthropological, historical and ethnological interest; antiquities more than 100 years old; historical objects; rare collections and examples of zoology, botany, mineralogy, anatomy and objects of palaeontological interest; and objects of artistic interest—paintings, drawings, engravings, prints, stamps, archives and furnishings more than a century old.

The art of transfer

A model treaty on transfer of supervision of offenders:

The sentencing State may request the administering State to apply the final court decision when a person has been found guilty and placed on probation (but not imprisoned), or has been given a suspended sentence or placed on parole. Complements a treaty on transfer of imprisoned offenders adopted at the Seventh Congress, in 1985.

A model treaty on transfer of criminal proceedings:

Allows States to request transfer of criminal proceedings to another country to help avoid pre-trial detention and reduce conflicts of competence. A State may refuse to transfer criminal proceedings against someone who committed what it considers a political offence in another country, or when the act is only an offence under military law or has to do with taxes, customs or exchange.

Bringing in the thieves

A model treaty on extradition:

Extraditable offences are those punishable under the laws of both countries by imprisonment or other deprivation of liberty for a maximum period of at least [one/two] year(s), or by a more severe penalty. The draft deals with mandatory and optional grounds for refusing extradition, provisional arrest, surrender of the sought person and surrender of property.

Helping one another

A model treaty on mutual assistance in criminal matters:

Will make it easier for law-enforcement agencies in different countries to lend each other a helping hand in executing searches and seizures, providing bank and corporate records and taking evidence from persons.

To humanize justice

How lawyers and prosecutors conduct themselves, when a police officer may use armed force against a suspect, what circumstances should result in incarceration, how can children on the brink of delinquency be helped—these are some of the complex social and ethical issues facing justice administration systems throughout the world today. Justice has ceased to be considered a mere matter of, blindly and abstractly, measuring guilt and punishing offenders. This humanization of justice is reflected in the following six major international legal texts that the Eighth Crime Congress is expected to adopt:

Jail as a last resort

Rules for protection of juveniles deprived of their liberty:

Jail or institutionalization should be a "disposition of last resort" for juveniles. And if it happens at all, it should be "for the minimum necessary period".

In an effort to humanize the administration of justice, the guidelines specify the circumstances under which young persons may be deprived of their freedom and how to ensure their fair treatment and safeguard their individual rights and well-being.

Children at risk

Guidelines to prevent juvenile delinquency ("Guidelines of Riyadh"):

"Children at social risk" should be priority targets of early preventive and protective intervention for young persons. The guidelines spell out fundamental principles and objectives of delinquency prevention at the pre-conflict stage and address issues relating to socialization processes—through the family, education, community and mass media.

UN Photo 154986/C. Edinger

UN Photo 126585

Who shoots first?

Basic principles on the use of force and firearms:

A police officer should try to use non-violent means to subdue a suspect. And when lawful use of force is unavoidable, restraint should be exercised, injury or damage minimized, and respect for human life preserved.

Guidelines should specify under what circumstances law enforcement officials are authorized to carry and use firearms and which types of firearms and ammunition are permitted. They should prohibit firearms and ammunition that cause unwarranted injury or present unwarranted risk.

Prosecutors—without intimidation

Guidelines on the role of prosecutors:

Governments must ensure that prosecutors are able to function without intimidation, improper interference or unjustified exposure to civil, penal or other liability. Along with their families, they must be physically protected by the authorities when threatened as a result of their professional action.

Prosecutors must be impartial and avoid all political, social, religious, racial, cultural, sexual or any other kind of discrimination. They should give special attention to serious crimes committed by public officials, particularly corruption, abuse of power and grave violations of human rights.

House arrest, Community service. . .

Standard minimum rules for non-custodial measures ("Tokyo Rules"):

The ultimate goal of the criminal justice system is the reintegration of the offender into society. And this text states: "The restriction of liberty is justifiable only from the viewpoints of public safety, crime prevention, just retribution and deterrence."

Overcrowded prisons are often not the best settings to promote social reintegration. Humane treatment of prisoners in such circumstances is often difficult.

All this points to finding reasonable alternatives to imprisonment. The Tokyo Rules articulate some of those alternatives—from sentencing offenders and house arrest to doing community service or placement in half-way houses or work programmes.

Equal access to legal service

Basic principles on the role of lawyers:

All persons arrested, detained or imprisoned should have access to a lawyer within 48 hours. Governments must guarantee equal access to lawyers for all, including the poor. Lawyers must not be threatened with prosecution or any type of sanction for performing their professional duties.

'Crime mocks frontiers'

Drug pushers, polluters, terrorists further disturb our global village

"Crime mocks frontiers", says Margaret Anstee, Secretary-General of the Eighth Crime Congress, describing the upsurge in transnational criminality that lends a particular sense of urgency to the Havana meeting. Ms. Anstee believes that crime fighters must also transcend frontiers and national differences.

Drug crimes increased worldwide by an amazing 120 per cent between 1976 and 1980, according to the Second UN World Crime Survey. This massive increase in organized drug crime—the biggest international criminal business today—dwarfs the relentless global increase of other types of crime during the same period. Intentional homicide went up by almost 30 per cent, theft by 22 per cent, fraud by 40 per cent and kidnapping by 16 per cent.

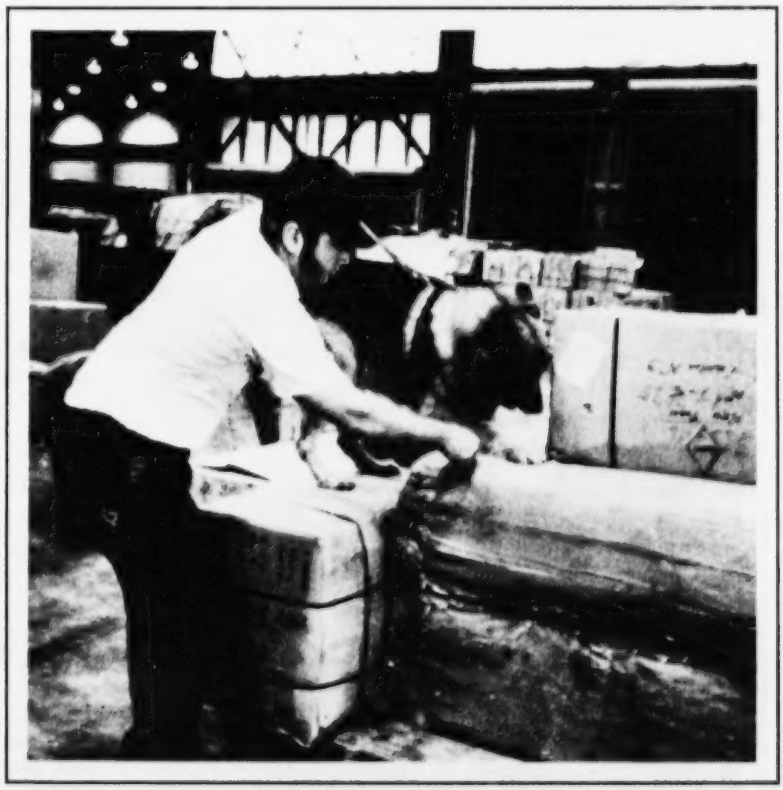
"Massive power and organizational strength are the novel aspects of transnational criminality", says Eduardo Vetere, Executive Secretary of the Congress, and several States are being reduced to "virtual impotence". Mr. Vetere heads the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs—the focal point for all UN anti-crime activities.

Along with drug trafficking, newly prominent transnational crimes include environmental offences, terrorism, illegal arms trading and computer crimes. "It is this new criminality that disturbs the international community, throwing the socio-political culture and the consolidated machinery of existing norms into crisis", Mr. Vetere says.

Organized crime is infiltrating legitimate business, he says. Its reach has extended into the international financial system and its association with economic and white-collar crime is becoming increasingly evident.

Mr. Vetere believes that intelligence-sharing among countries and an expansion of the concept of jurisdiction are essential to beat transnational crime. Although broadened somewhat in recent years, the traditional, almost exclusively territorial concept of jurisdiction is still inadequate to cope with the complexity of transnational criminality in the modern world, he asserts.

All five model treaties that the Eighth Congress is expected to adopt try to expand that concept, in particular the texts on extradition and mutual judicial assistance.



UN Photo 134123/Y Nagata

New ways of detection...

Changes in national banking and finance legislations are needed to control money laundering and to trace and confiscate the proceeds of crime. An interdisciplinary approach has been proposed, involving lawyers, police, accountants, financial analysts, computer specialists and corporate affairs investigators. But many experts consider that tracing international money flows would nevertheless continue to be extremely difficult.

Ten resolutions before Congress

The Eighth Congress will consider a set of 24 guidelines for the prevention and control of organized crime.

The guidelines recommend research on the structure of organized crime, the causes, nature and effect of corruption and its links to organized crime, and anti-corruption measures. Anti-corruption agencies or similar mechanisms should be created. Criminal legislation should define new offences with respect to money laundering and organized fraud.

Attention should be focused on new methods of criminal investigation and techniques developed in various countries to follow the "money trail" and on the use of telecommunications and electronic surveillance methods, subject to human rights considerations.

Drug trafficking, computer fraud, official corruption and environmental damage are covered in a set of 29 draft recommendations on international co-operation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development.

These recommendations call on Governments to devise administrative and regulatory mechanisms to prevent corrupt practices or abuse of power by public officials, create legal provisions to forfeit corruption-tainted funds and property, and adopt economic sanctions against enterprises involved in corruption.

International instruments should include standards for global assistance in relation to bank secrecy—to facilitate seizure and confiscation of funds derived from criminal acts—as well as more effective norms to inhibit crime-related money laundering and investment.

The guidelines on organized crime and the recommendations on international co-operation are contained in draft resolutions sent to the Congress by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, through the UN Economic and Social Council.

Other drafts deal with terrorism, urban crime, environmental protection, treatment of prisoners, protection of human rights of victims of crime and abuse of power, and review of UN work programmes in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Against official corruption

Where organized crime is entrenched, government corruption often flourishes, even within the criminal justice system itself. The Crime Congress will consider a manual on practical anti-corruption measures, prepared by Michael DeFeo, Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the United States Department of Justice. The original draft was reviewed by an interregional seminar on corruption in government held in The Hague in 1989.

The manual, commissioned by the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, deals with penal laws, procedures to ensure the detection, investigation and conviction of corrupt officials, "free of intimidating influences and unnecessarily technical impediments", forfeiture of funds and property obtained by corrupt officials and mechanisms to prevent corrupt practices or abuse of power, including corporate and citizen reporting and means to combat intimidation.

While threats of physical violence against magistrates, prosecutors, police officials and witnesses are not uncommon, intimidation frequently takes a subtler form—for example, "suggestions of a diminution of career opportunities, of bad results in future matters before a certain court, of unfortunate budget consequences for the investigating unit".

These threats "are easy to convey in terms which make criminal prosecution difficult, but they are clearly understood by civil servants whose professional and personal lives are very dependent upon persons who move in the same circles as those persons under investigation", the manual states.

To counter this type of subtle, pervasive intimidation, it advises countries to develop "an institutional culture of independence and professionalism in criminal justice authorities which reinforces the strong and compels the weak to rise to the group norms of honesty and integrity".

Terrorism: issues and answers

Lack of agreement on what and who is included under the term "international terrorism" has hampered efforts to forge a common international strategy against that form of violence since the first UN study on that issue was conducted in 1972. The Eighth Crime Congress is expected to propose a practical way to get around that hurdle.

"Instead of attempting to define the phenomenon in an abstract way, a list of concrete activities or actions that the international community considers unacceptable and

that are, therefore, considered as terrorist conduct should be compiled", a draft resolution before the Congress states.

Further shifting the focus away from definition, it goes on to list a number of "issues of particular concern", including absence of a clear definition of victims of terrorism, limits of use of force in connection with wars of national liberation and non-international conflicts and lack of international control of arms trade.

Resort to terrorist violence by States, "that by their conduct violate international law", should be more effectively curbed by the international community. The UN should develop mechanisms to control such conduct. The draft recommends considering the possibility of establishing a special penal jurisdiction on international terrorism within the International Court of Justice or a separate international criminal court.

The document includes sections on international co-operation for prevention and control of terrorism, jurisdiction, extradition, non-applicability of defence to terrorist violence based on obedience to superior orders or acts of State, protection of highly vulnerable targets, judiciary and criminal justice personnel, victims, control of weapons, treatment of offenders, role of mass media and codification of international criminal law.

UN Photo 120696

Pollution: destroys the art of nature and man...

The crime: environmental damage

Nature knows no borders—neither does the destruction of nature. Contaminated garbage from developed countries has been routinely dumped in a number of third world countries. Acid rain generated by one country's polluting industries falls over another country's pristine forests and lakes.

Reflecting growing international concern over the health of the planet, the Eighth Crime Congress is expected to recommend the criminalization of acts that damage the environment "as a last resort" measure. Environmental offences are often only dealt with under administrative or civil law.

A draft resolution before the Congress specifically asks countries "under national criminal laws", to protect nature and the environment against the dumping of hazardous wastes or other, similar materials and against the operation of dangerous technical installations that they consider involve unacceptable margins of risk.

It also asks the UN Secretary-General to encourage the incorporation, in future international conventions for the protection of the environment, "of provisions under which States would be expected to enact sanctions under national criminal law".

When crime doesn't pay

What happens after the accused is tried and found guilty?

Jail is the usual next step for the criminal who is convicted. But in this age of severe prison overcrowding and the AIDS epidemic, the Eighth Crime Congress is expected to recommend that judges consider jail as a "sanction of last resort".

A 14-point draft resolution before the Congress suggests that judges should only imprison people "if it can be shown that there are reasonable grounds for believing that community sanctions would be inappropriate". Only the most serious offences should be excluded from the application of community sanctions, the document stresses.

When crime shakes society—for example, in the wake of a crime wave or of a particularly gruesome or sensationalized murder—the public may blame what it perceives as lenient judges for past, present, even future criminality.

"Sentencing practices", the draft resolution states, "should be seen neither as a cause of current levels of crime nor as solutions to crime problems in the future".

It recognizes that one of the goals of the criminal justice system as a whole is to reduce crime. "The purpose of sentencing is to contribute to that goal by responding in a just and measured fashion to wrongdoing in society". This should translate into sanctions "that preserve the authority of the law and promote respect for it", it states.

Prosecutors should not always formally charge an accused person. Sometimes, certain types of cases should be screened out of the criminal justice system. And they should use conflict-resolution techniques "such as those involving mediation and reparation".

Minimal intrusion

Human rights always must be kept in sight: the draft recommends that countries develop "techniques for reducing to a minimum the intrusion of its criminal justice system into the lives of members of society".

Prison overcrowding could be countered and human rights served by reducing the use of custody and detention to a minimum, proclaiming amnesties and pardons and supporting prison rehabilitation programmes.

Because overcrowding can make it difficult to apply the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the draft recommends judicial review and effective external control of prison administrations.

A set of "draft basic principles for the treatment of prisoners" also before the Congress states that, except for the "necessary limitation of the freedom of movement, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and other international instruments.

"All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings". There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth "or other status".

Conditions should be created so that immates have access to education and can work for adequate pay, remain involved in the labour market and financially help their families and themselves.

UN Photo 146845

Rebels or delinquents?

UN Photo 132549/J Foxx

Rehabilitation...a continuing goal...

"Criminal", "deviant", "delinquent", "pre-delinquent"—any or all of these labels may be mistakenly applied to a rebellious teen-ager. The question is: Is the label deserved, accurate, useful, harmless?

Margaret Anstee, Secretary-General of the Eighth Congress, feels that such labels could have a stigmatizing effect and cause young people to adopt undesirable behaviour they otherwise would outgrow.

On the other hand, such behaviour often leads to "undue rigidity on the part of formal systems of social control" and results in "unwarranted, excessive and costly intervention in the private sphere of juveniles".

Knowing if and when to intervene, and to what extent, when a young person tests the limits of social tolerance, is essential not only for parents but for criminal justice systems. Ms. Anstee thinks that for society, the goal should be "to limit formal intervention and the application of legal sanctions". When official intervention is necessary, she advises avoiding "criminalizing behaviour that does not present serious harm to society".

Eduardo Vetere, Executive-Director of the Congress, worries about children and teens in jail and the often horrifying sequel of physical and sexual abuse, emotional neglect, malnutrition, untreated illnesses, even suicide. It's what he calls "criminal contamination"—jail turning into a school for crime.

Incarcerating young people, which he says is "a fairly widespread practice throughout the world", may contravene such international human rights instruments as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A juvenile is not an adult in miniature, Mr. Vetere stresses, but a developing human being in her or his own right. A system of "small prisons for small persons", as some have proposed, is undesirable.

Mr. Vetere wholeheartedly agrees with two major instruments before the Congress—the "Guidelines of Riyadh" to prevent juvenile delinquency and the rules for the protection of juveniles deprived of their liberty—which stress prevention within the community and alternatives to imprisonment.

In many countries, children are committing crimes at an earlier age and such crimes are increasingly violent. They are the kind of crimes that only a few generations ago seemed to be the province of hardened, adult criminals. But these children still constitute a minority.

Most children and teens in trouble with the law may simply be trying to survive a disintegrating family or community. Petty theft, begging, drug trafficking and prostitution are their diversions on the street.

On a collision course

Many children on a collision course with the law have been victims of violence within their families.

A draft resolution on urban crime before the Congress recommends criminalizing such acts, including sexual aggression and abusive treatment, and attempting to control them through integrated strategies that include education and assistance.

Poverty, unemployment, lack of decent housing at reasonable cost, unsuitable education systems and no prospect for social integration are also "factors conducive to crime", the text says.

Another factor is "the destruction of original cultural identities, together with racism and discrimination, which may lead to disadvantages in the social, health and employment spheres".

States are asked to pay attention to the infrastructure of crime and, among other things, to develop a policy of support for single-parent families, involve tenants in housing administration and planning and turn crime prevention into "one of the essential tasks of the police", with community involvement.

General Assembly message to world:

Reduce drug demand!

Vows to continue fight against production, trafficking

UN Photo 175483/M. Grant

The UN General Assembly has agreed to make an all-out effort to reduce drug demand in consumer developed countries and to aid developing countries trying to eradicate narcotic crops and production.

At the end of a four-day special session (20-23 February, New York), marked by "passionate intensity" in its calls for action—as Assembly President Joseph N. Garba put it—the world body unanimously adopted a Political Declaration and a Global Programme of Action against the drug scourge.

Preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals and equipment used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and aiding transit countries in controlling illicit trafficking were also emphasized in the 30-point Declaration and the 100-paragraph Programme of Action.

The Assembly, in adopting resolution S-17/2 at its seventeenth special session, also proclaimed a UN Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000). States Members committed themselves to give high priority to the fight against drugs and to increase efforts and resources in order to intensify international co-operation and concerted action in key areas.

Drug-producing developing countries should receive stronger

international economic and technical support for viable alternative income schemes, such as crop substitution, the Assembly declared. Increased health, social, judicial and law enforcement assistance should be provided to affected countries.

At the national level, special emphasis should be placed on "stronger measures to eliminate demand for narcotic drugs", the Political Declaration states.

The far-reaching Global Programme of Action—an international blueprint in the fight against drugs—deals with all aspects of the problem, from elimination of illicit demand and addict rehabilitation to steps to be taken against the illegal use of the banking system and diversion of arms and explosives by the drug lords.

UN asked to do more

Although asking that more be done in the war against drugs, the Assembly did not set a specific dollar figure to pay for this increased effort. Current UN anti-drug activities are reportedly already facing a $33 million to $35 million biennial resource gap.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar warned on 20 February that resources for new programmes could not be found by mere redeployment and asked that more money in the regular budget be considered. Among many other new tasks, the UN is now expected to act as an advisory information centre on demand reduction.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's assessment was shared by Assembly President Garba, who said that the expectation that UN agencies could perform well their assigned tasks without an increase in resources was unrealistic.

"In their war against many societies, the drug cartels and their henchmen ask no quarter and give no quarter", he said. The UN

Drugs know no boundaries

The World Health Organization (WHO) on 16 February reported an upsurge of drug abuse in all regions. While the situation in Africa was deteriorating, in the Americas the abuse of cocaine, cannabis and multiple drugs, often involving alcohol and psychotropic substances, continued to increase.

Heroin abuse was increasing in Asia and the Far East, reaching epidemic proportions in some countries. Europe's main problem involved abuse by injection of heroin, with cocaine and amphetamine use rising rapidly. In the Near and Middle East, cannabis abuse was now accompanied by the use of heroin in several countries.

"Crack" cocaine and "designer drugs" had become deadly popular in North America and Western Europe, WHO reported. In both developed and developing countries, psychoactive drugs, such as tranquillizers, depressants and stimulants of the central nervous system, endangered the health of peoples.

WHO has estimated there are more than 5 million injecting-drug-users in the world—all vulnerable to the deadly human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It is associated with the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) which has claimed thousands of lives on all continents.

And children are becoming involved with drugs at even earlier ages. Many babies are born in the developed world already addicted to heroin or cocaine. Although the majority of drug users are male, "the proportion of women abusing drugs continues to increase in both developed and developing countries", the WHO report concluded.

WHO 19881/T. Urban

should be provided with financial resources "to match the challenge at hand".

UN drug control activities co-ordinator Margaret J. Anstee went even further. At a press conference on 23 February, she said that the war against drugs might be lost for lack of adequate funding.

"We're being asked to do very much more with less", she said, adding that at some point the UN might be forced to say that it could not do everything it was being asked to do without proper funding.

A high-level forum

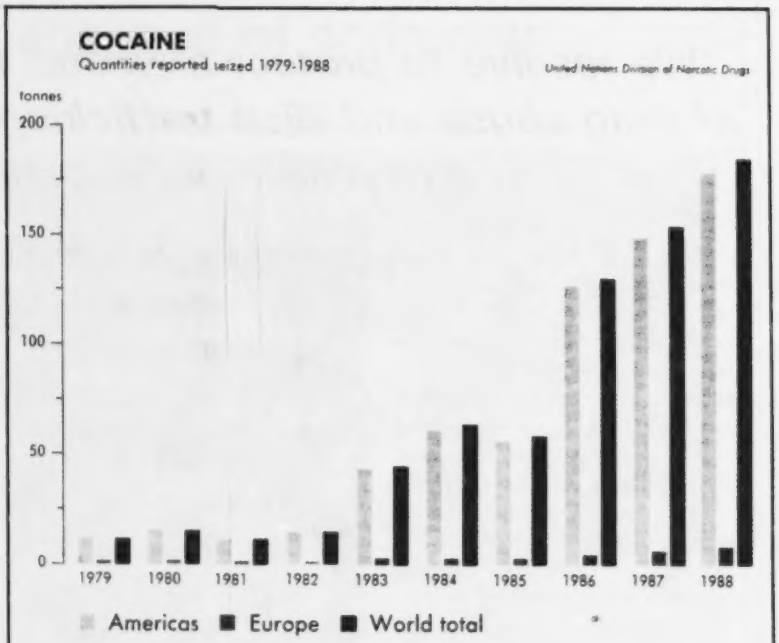
A total of 111 speakers addressed the session, among them the Prime Ministers of Trinidad and Tobago and Peru, and high-level ministers from 45 countries.

An *Ad Hoc* Committee chaired by Peter Hohenfellner of Austria formulated the final texts of the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action before sending it to plenary for adoption.

The groundwork for the session had been laid by a Preparatory Committee, also chaired by Mr. Hohenfellner.

Tighter co-ordination of all UN anti-drug efforts is one goal of the "system-wide plan of action" requested by the Assembly last December *(resolution 44/141)*. A draft outline of the plan is being completed.

Among other documents, the seventeenth session considered a report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. At its eleventh special session (29 January-2 February, Vienna), the Commission placed six "designer drugs"—all analogues of fenatyle—and four psychotropic substances under strict international controls.



UN Photo 155635

Acting on a tip from an informant, United States Drug Enforcement Administration agents moved in on a warehouse in Tarpon Springs, Florida, in May of 1988 and seized nearly 3.5 tons of powder cocaine. The drugs were hidden inside a shipment of 40,000 planks of Brazilian hardwood timber—the ends of selected planks had been sawn off, the cocaine inserted, and the ends glued back and planed down. They arrived in Florida after a journey that began at the source of coca leaves in Peru's Upper Huallaga Valley, progressed through process laboratories hidden in the Amazon jungle of southern Colombia, and almost resulted in making available "cut" cocaine worth $1.25 billion on the street. Instead, the drugs were confiscated in the largest seizure of cocaine leading to arrest and conviction in United States history.

Halfway around the world, in 1986, police in Pakistan intercepted a car driving to the city of Karachi with 220 kilograms of heroin. It was the largest heroin seizure in their country up to that time. Two months later, another arrest netted an identical amount of the potent drug. Together, the two shipments are estimated to have had a street value of up to $4 billion.

'We resolve to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. . .'

The Political Declaration against drugs adopted at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly is both a statement of intent and principles. In unusually strong language, the six-page document conveys the international revulsion against drug abuse and the decision to end that scourge.

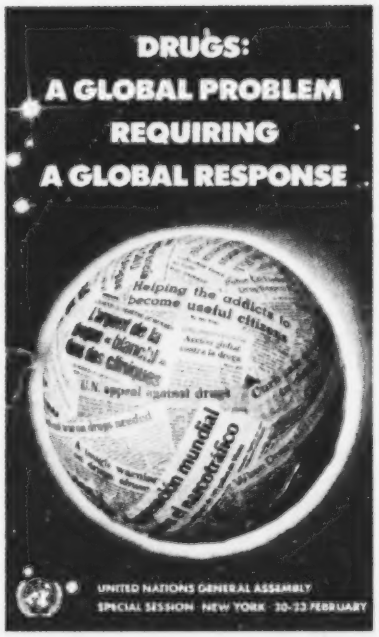
"We condemn the crime of illicit drug trafficking in all its forms and reaffirm our political commitment to concerted international action", it states.

Significantly, the Declaration recognizes that the overall drug problem—from demand and consumption to trafficking and distribution—is linked to economic, social and cultural conditions in affected countries. It also acknowledges links between drug abuse and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the spread of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), as well as the growing connection between drug trafficking and terrorism.

"We shall expand the scope and increase the effectiveness of international co-operation" against illegal drug abuse and trafficking, the Declaration states, adding that the principle of shared responsibility should guide all such action.

The international fight against illicit trafficking "should be pursued in full conformity with the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and respect for the territorial integrity of States and free from unrelated political motivations".

States are urged to ratify or accede to all UN conventions re-



garding drugs and to apply provisionally the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

"We shall strengthen and enhance the capability of the UN" to deal with the drug problem, the Declaration says, stressing the need to increase the effectiveness and status of UN structures for drug abuse control. To this end, the structure of existing Vienna-based drug control units will be examined, the Political Declaration concludes.

The Global Programme of Action sets out to translate the Declaration's good intentions into practice.

In 100 short, specific paragraphs it offers a blueprint for world-wide action against drug abuse. Among other things, it suggests:

- Higher priority to drug abuse prevention and reduction;
- An analysis of social causes generating drug demand;
- UN financial support to prevent drug abuse by children and use of children in the drug trade in developing countries;
- The UN act as a global information clearing-house on treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;
- Using high-resolution satellite imagery and aerial photography, with the agreement of the country concerned, to identify illegal narcotic cultivation;
- Calling an international conference to better prevent diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit drug production;
- Establishing joint border checkpoints against drug trafficking;
- Developing mechanisms—including international agreements—to prevent drug-money-laundering and confiscate funds and property acquired with drug money;
- Using forfeited property and proceeds to combat drug abuse and trafficking and to pay for UN drug-related activities;
- Asking the UN to promote exchange of information among States on flows of drug money and co-ordinate anti-drug operation training and equipment provided by some nations to others;
- Giving higher priority to UN drug control activities.

'...A delightful absence of acrimony...'

Debate at the Assembly unfolded with "a delightful absence of acrimony" —perhaps a reflection of growing international concern over the catastrophic social consequences of drug abuse, Assembly President Joseph N. Garba stated as he closed the special session on illicit drug activity.

UN Photo 175482/M. Grant

In an opening speech, Mr. Garba urged the session to send a clear message to the "merchants of death" that their cause will not prosper, that "if they continue along that evil path it will lead only to their own destruction".

Combined efforts of the international community "will ensure that when they are beaten in one country they will find no sanctuary elsewhere". The fight against drugs is indeed a war in which the battle lines are drawn worldwide, he said.

Mr. Garba said that as long as demand for illegal drugs existed, there would be criminals to exploit it. "Simple economics dictate that while demand remains high, the more successful we are in the task of reducing production, the greater the rewards to undetected traffickers will be."

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar told the Assembly that drug abuse was "right at the top of the list of priorities requiring urgent attention from the international community".

Asking the Assembly to "tackle the issues head-on", Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that there was no time to spend in "simply redefining the problem or making statements about what we have done up to now". Instead, "we must focus our minds from the outset on the need to achieve real results", he said.

'Paymasters to murderers...'

The first speaker, Julio Londoño Paredes, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, said that at an historic meeting in his country on 15 February in Cartagena de Indias, the United States—"the world's biggest consumer of drugs"—had recognized its own responsibility, heretofore said to be the responsibility of only one or two developing countries.

The best support for developing countries was to improve their economies, he declared. It was time to set up a working group on drug consumption and demand within the UN, he added.

James A. Baker, Secretary of State of the United States, said that drugs were the number one problem facing his country, and curbing domestic consumption was the most critical challenge. As long as demand for drugs by Americans remained voracious, his country would face an endless, uphill struggle to halt supply.

"American users act as paymasters to organized murderers. Profits from every kilo of cocaine bought in the streets of America buy the bullets that rob democracies of their dignity and freedom", Mr. Baker stated.

Coca farmers had destroyed acres of forest lands and traffickers had dumped millions of gallons of precursor chemicals into rivers, he went on. The United States had just ratified the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and urged all countries to do the same as soon as possible. Its

UN Photo 175499/M. Grant

Mr. Baker
of the United States

ratification would foster world-wide co-operation in such areas as money laundering, intelligence gathering and information sharing.

Coca economy: 'Skyrocketing'

More than 61,000 peasant families are involved in Bolivia's skyrocketing coca economy, that country's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carlos Iturralde Ballivian, told the Assembly. It was imperative to replace that illegal economy with a legitimate one. No solution to the drug problem would be found against a background of critical poverty and underdevelopment.

In producing countries, the emphasis should be on alternative development; in areas where marketing took place, the emphasis should be on interdiction. But that double-pronged action could only be effective if vigorous steps were taken to slash consumption and demand.

Disproportionate sacrifices

Guillermo Larco Cox, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, rejected the view that coca production was helping to reactivate the Peruvian economy. The greatest profits in the cocaine trade were made from processing and commercialization, both of which took place outside his country, he said.

As one of three countries in the front line of the battle against cocaine, Peru was incurring a sacrifice disproportionate to its capabilities. The punitive approach employed so far ignored the shared responsiblity for drug crime. Without overlooking its own responsibility, Peru believed that illicit drug production required precursor chemicals, a money-laundering system and a demand for drug products.

Mr. Larco Cox stressed that the war on drugs had to be conducted within the framework of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

UN Photo 175584/J. Isaac

Mr. Larco Cox
of Peru

A similar view was expressed by many other speakers in the debate and ultimately strongly reflected in the Political Declaration.

Mexico's Attorney-General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo said that half the budget of his office and a third of the armed forces' budget were spent fighting drugs. His Government had also stiffened penalties for drug criminals. Over the past 14 months, 43,551 marijuana fields and 48,776 poppy fields had been destroyed and 38,519 kilograms of pure cocaine seized, along with 697 kilograms of opium gum and heroin and 644 tons of dried, packaged marijuana. Total market value of the drugs destroyed or seized would have exceeded $50 billion.

Opium crop reduced

Pakistan had over 2 million drug addicts, half of whom were heroin addicts, said that country's representative, Kalim Dil Khan. However, opium production had been reduced by 36.5 per cent—from 203 to 130 tons—and the area under cultivation had been brought down from 11,590 to 5,850 hectares.

UN Photo 175526/J. Isaac

Mr. Khan
of Pakistan

India faced a serious drug-transit traffic problem, said India's Representative, C.R. Gharekhan. Intensified countermeasures by India had resulted in a decline in the quantity of drugs seized during 1989, after an earlier rising trend.

Traffickers changed routes if they were under enforcement pressure in a particular area. Corroborating

India's successful enforcement effort, INTERPOL had recently determined that almost 70 per cent of the heroin seized in Europe in 1988 had travelled along the Balkan route and that the same trend continued during 1989. This brought into focus the need to take stringent measures in all drug-producing and consuming countries.

Thailand was being used as a gateway for the drug trafficking from "the infamous Golden Triangle" (which spans parts of northern Thailand, Burma and Laos), said Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Pong Sarasin. While intensive interdiction activities undertaken by his Government had so far "substantially disrupted" the flow of drugs, in view of the alarming increase in drug output from that area, success remained doubtful without stronger, more generous international support.

The Caribbean: dangerously exposed

The Caribbean archipelago was dangerously exposed to illicit drug operations, located as it is between two continental areas of drug cultivation and drug consumption, said Lionel A. Hurst of Antigua and Barbuda.

The offshore banking industry, which provided thousands of Caribbean people with jobs, was now a sophisticated financial system, eminently capable of expeditiously handling large monetary transactions. There was fear that the industry could become a prime target for drug traffickers looking for ways to hide their "narco-dollars" as it guaranteed customer confidentiality.

His Government intended to remain vigilant and introduce new banking laws capable of handling effectively the constantly evolving money-laundering schemes of drug barons.

Mr. Robinson of Trinidad and Tobago

Arthur N.R. Robinson, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, said: "Let us make the 1990s . . . a decade dedicated to combating drug dependency and to eradicating this scourge of mankind."

New levels of regional and international co-operation to overcome the problems posed in the prosecution of such criminal offences as illicit drug trafficking across national frontiers were now a matter of grave and urgent necessity. The proposal for an international criminal court with jurisdiction over certain categories of offences was now a matter for urgent consideration by the international community. Unified efforts among States would spell problems for the drugs lords, as it would leave them few avenues of refuge and little opportunity to further entrench their global networks.

Criminalize money laundering . . .

Money laundering should be criminalized everywhere, said Ray Burke, Minister for Justice of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community. He urged all Governments to introduce appropriate domestic legislation to trace, freeze and confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking and to criminalize money laundering. Mr. Burke suggested a link between increased funding for national and international anti-drug efforts and "increased confiscation of assets derived from illicit trafficking".

. . . and change social conditions

Removing conditions conducive to drug abuse was crucial, stated Victor G. Komplektov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union. Tens of thousands of persons currently abused narcotic

UN Photo 175524/J. Isaac

Mr. Komplektov of the Soviet Union

drugs in his country. His Government was concerned with the significant growth in drug abuse in recent years.

Strict measures were taken against drug traffickers, he went on. But since 1987, a different approach had been taken to deal with drug addicts. Criminal sanctions were not applied to those who voluntarily gave themselves up to law-enforcement agencies.

The Soviet Union suggested setting up a multilateral system to control transboundary drug traffic. It favoured international programmes on treatment and social rehabilitation of addicts, and development of effective techniques to detect illicit drug plantations and eliminate them in an ecologically safe way.

A world summit

Demand reduction would be the focus of the World Ministerial Summit that the United Kingdom, in association with the UN, was to host in London from 9 to 11 April, said Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom.

He called for consolidation of the three existing major UN drug units—the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, and the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Such a merger would streamline UN anti-drug activities and leave no time for them to quarrel over responsibilities.

Massive fund drive

A mutual assistance treaty for eradication of illicit drug trafficking in Western Africa was being negotiated by Nigeria, Benin, Ghana and Togo, said Bola Ajibola, Nigeria's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. UN drug-related activities should be co-ordinated. But "a more effective approach to the issue would be the mounting by committed volunteers of a massive drive for needed funds, rather than the appointment of yet another body of experts", he stated.

UN Photo 175492/M. Grant

Mr. Ajibola of Nigeria

Ghana's ports were increasingly used by international drug traffickers, said that nation's representative, N.K. Dumevi. National anti-drug activities had intensified in order to deal with the disturbing incidence of international heroin traffickers slipping undetected through its ports only to be tracked down and arrested elsewhere.

Cartagena: Cali for war on three fronts

In the Caribbean port city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in the heart of a vast drug empire, the Presidents of the United States—the biggest drug consumer in the world—and of three of its main suppliers—Bolivia, Colombia and Peru—agreed on 15 February on a simple, yet momentous principle: if it is to succeed, the war against drugs has to be simultaneously waged on three equally important fronts—demand reduction, consumption and supply.

These activities "are interconnected and self-reinforcing", they declared. "Progress in one area will help achieve progress in others. Failure in any of them will jeopardize progress in the others." None should have any particular priority over another.

The Presidents—Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia, Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Alan Garcia of Peru and George Bush of the United States—also called for a world conference on drugs in 1991 and vowed to meet again within six months.

"It is clear", the Presidents stated, "that to be fully effective, supply reduction efforts must be accompanied by significant reduction in demand."

That represents a sharp shift from the mostly single-front war on drug supply being waged, with mixed results, in recent years. The changed perceptions emanating from the Cartagena summit presaged the global sense of responsibility that marked the General Assembly's special session on drugs, which took place only a few days later.

The Cartagena Declaration commits the United States to financially support alternative development, designed to replace the coca economy in Peru and Bolivia and illicit drug trafficking in all three Andean countries.

It was clearly recognized that the poor in those countries in many cases would be directly affected. To mitigate the social and economic impact, the United States "is prepared to provide balance-of-payments support to help meet foreign exchange needs" and will also consider "funding for emergency social programmes", the Declaration stated.

ILO seeks ways to respond to dramatic social and economic changes

Five priorities cited

UN Photo

Ways to respond more vigorously to social and economic changes taking place in the world were explored by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at its 1990 spring session (Geneva, 15 February-2 March).

"Dramatic developments with important social implications" were the focus of ILO Director-General Michel Hansenne's opening statement at a consultation on ILO programme and budget proposals for the 1992-1993 biennium. Surveying the global labour scene, he noted the start of a "new epoch" for South Africa with the release of political activist Nelson Mandela and the surge towards democratization in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

Such reforms would bring the ILO closer to many countries "in which the social institutions associated with tripartism are being established for the first time, or are being significantly reinforced", he said.

Those changes represented a "considerable opportunity" to help the world develop towards values and standards defended by the ILO, he added. The Body now needed the means to make the required "important additional efforts".

Substantial support was given to five proposed priorities for the 1992-1993 programme: defence of human rights and a greater degree of observance of ILO standards; equality between men and women; employment promotion, together with the design of socially acceptable structural adjustment programmes; elimination of poverty; and improvement of the environment. The link between development and standards—particularly those on human rights—had to be maintained in all the Organisation's activities, it was stressed.

The Governing Body also recommended that the International Labour Conference Selection Committee meet to consider a report on the situation of workers in the occupied Arab territories, which will be prepared by the Director-General.

Freedom of association

Of 61 current cases of alleged violations of ILO freedom of association standards, the Governing Body examined 24 in substance, reaching definitive findings in 10 cases and interim conclusions in 14.

In a complaint concerning Romania, the Body noted recent changes in the country and welcomed the dispatch of a direct contacts mission there.

It also expressed deep concern over alleged deaths, detentions and ill-treatment of leaders and activists of the Workers' Autonomous Federation in China. It deplored the extreme rapidity with which executions of three workers were carried out.

Deep concern was also expressed regarding complaints against Sudan. Repeal on a ban on trade union activity in Sudan was asked. The status of detained trade unionists was queried. A high-level mission was to be sent there to discuss the overall trade union situation, the ILO Body decided.

Deep concern was expressed at the alleged murder or disappearance of over 300 trade unionists in Colombia since 1986. It was also noted that that Government had followed up on two ILO recommendations—that paramilitary groups be disbanded and the judiciary strengthened. Reinstatement of workers dismissed for striking was urged.

46th session

Human Rights Commission:

A potpourri of issues

Effects of irregular armed forces, drug traffickers, child abuse, protection of minorities

The Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-sixth session (29 January-9 March, Geneva), covered a wide range of topics, including the consequences of actions by irregular armed forces and drug traffickers, child abuse, the rights of victims of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and the protection of rights of many minorities, including indigenous populations and migrant workers.

It also reviewed specific human rights situations in 14 countries and territories, including reports on initial missions to Iran and Romania by Special Representatives. UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar was asked to report in 1991 on the results of his ongoing contacts with Cuba regarding the human rights situation there. The 43-member body also dealt with alleged human rights violations in southern Africa, the Middle East and other regions. No action was taken on proposed drafts related to China and Iraq.

AP/Wide World/Gene Puskar

The protection of human rights of all persons is the goal of the Commission.

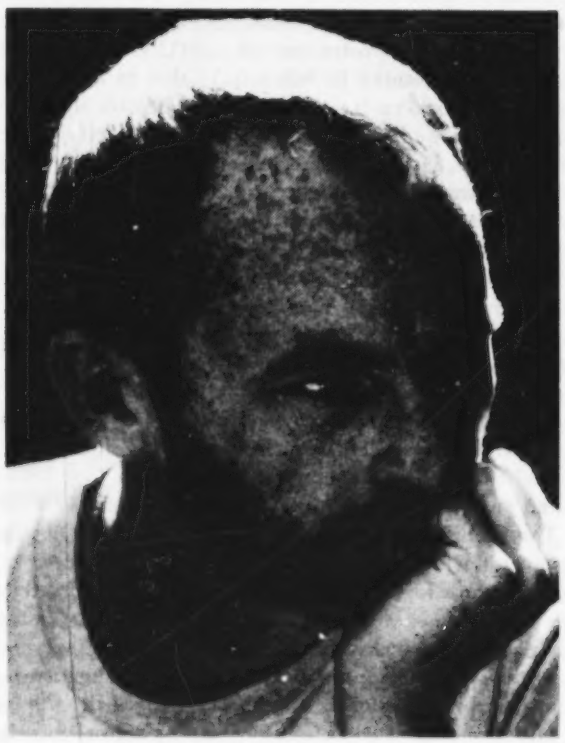
A report on the situation in Myanmar (formerly Burma) was received.

In adopting 96 texts—81 resolutions and 15 decisions—the Commission continued work towards the implementation of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other important global instruments dealing with civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

It asked for the convening of a high-level world conference on promotion and protection of human rights, and recommended proclamation of an

UN Photo 111059

A Year for Indigenous Peoples in 1993 is being considered.



AP/Wide World/E. Rieberg

Discrimination against victims of AIDS was discussed.

International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples, possibly in 1993.

Work proceeded on documents to protect the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; and persons detained on grounds of mental ill-health. Also considered were texts concerning enforced or involuntary disappearances; unacknowledged detention of persons; the right to a fair trial; traditional practices affecting the health of women and children; the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers.

New Commission Chairman Purificacion V. Quisumbing of the Philippines told its members they had a historic task of forging a "mighty human rights ideology", as the courageous peoples of the world were doing, reasserting the primacy of their human rights over detractors and violators of those rights.

A confluence of events, she said, had provided a favourable environment for the Commission to engage in genuine and serious dialogue and negotiations to eradicate human rights violations, particularly the mass and flagrant violations of the rights to self-determination and development.

The Commission reports its actions to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Some new concerns

After expressing deep concern at the adverse effects on the enjoyment of human rights of crimes and atrocities committed in many countries by irregular armed groups, regardless of their origin, and by drug traffickers, the body decided to consider the question of the "consequences of acts of violence committed by irregular armed groups and drug traffickers on the enjoyment of human rights" as a matter of high priority in 1991.

All Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups were asked to pay particular attention to the activities of such groups and drug traffickers in their reports; the UN Secretary-General was to collect relevant information and pass it on to the Rapporteurs and Working Groups for consideration.

The Commission decided to appoint for one year a Special Rapporteur to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of adoption of children for commercial purposes.

The Secretary-General was asked to assume an active role in the diffusion of information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in its promotion. The Conven-

tion was adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989.

It endorsed the appointment of Luis Varela Quirós by its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to study problems and causes of discrimination against people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or people suffering from AIDS.

It also endorsed the recommendation of its Special Rapporteur to examine questions relevant to torture: for example, if a person is found responsible for acts of torture or severe maltreatment, he or she should be brought to trial and, if found guilty, severely punished.

The Commission also recommended that the General Assembly consider the adoption and publication of guidelines to regulate computerized personal data files, as set out in the Special Rapporteur's final report on the subject.

The Economic and Social Council, it said, should authorize a study concerning the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights, with the aim of developing basic principles and guidelines in that respect.

The Commission also welcomed the release of South African black activist Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for 27 years, and demanded the unconditional release of all political prisoners in South Africa and the unconditional return of political refugees and members of liberation movements based outside South Africa.

The Commission also asked Israel to refrain from settling immigrants in the occupied territories, and to desist from deporting and expelling Palestinian citizens.

Serious concern was expressed over the escalation of violence, the loss of life and the scale of destruction in Beirut. The Commission appealed to the factions concerned for an immediate end to all military actions.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told the Commission that its activities were of considerable significance to some 14 million refugees in the world today. Human rights violations were major causes of refugee exodus, and Commission efforts to curb violations contributed to preventing refugee flows.

Country reports

Romania: Joseph Voyame, Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Romania, said that in June 1989 that Government had declined to co-operate with him. His study, based on documents and interviews with Romanian refugees, alleged systematic and grave violations of human rights related to the right to life, physical and moral integrity, human rights violations in the administration of justice, freedom of movement, thought, conscience and religion, and freedom of opinion and expression.

However, he stated that since December 1989, when the Romanian revolution had drastically transformed the political situation, the human rights situation had dramatically improved, though much remained to be done. The new authorities had co-operated fully with him, but people were still afraid of former security officials.

He reported that freedom of movement, religion, expression and conscience had all been restored, as had the right to form trade unions. There had been a genuine cultural renaissance; censorship had been abolished; and publishing houses were now independent of the Ministry of Culture. The problem of minorities remained difficult to solve but important measures had already been taken, Mr. Voyame said.

In debate, the representative of Romania said his country intended to co-operate with the UN and the Commission, based on equality and mutual respect. The political

UNHCR 1703/SA Hollman

Refugees are a continuing concern of the Commission.

UN Photo 175645

dialogue, which had been started, was a clear indication of the will of Romanians to build a democratic future.

In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Commission noted the considerable improvement in respect for human rights that had taken place in Romania, and recommended that Romanian authorities continue to ensure that human rights in all their aspects were respected in their country, both *de jure* and *de facto*.

Iran: The Commission welcomed Iran's decision to invite Commission Special Representative Reynaldo Galindo Pohl to visit the country from 21 to 28 January 1990, and to make a further visit. Mr. Galindo Pohl had reported that the situation there in general was showing improvement. He favoured continued monitoring, which he felt could bring about certain changes in the protection of human rights. He was still concerned over reports of executions, torture, substitute prisoners and treatment of members of the Baha'i faith.

The Commission welcomed clemency measures by Iran, which was encouraged to comply with international instruments on human rights and to ensure that all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction enjoyed the rights recognized in those instruments.

Iran said the report contained many elements that met with its criticism. The suggestion that monitoring be continued was not quite in line with the observations and conclusions made in the report. Iran welcomed the suggestion made by the Special Representative regarding an academic study of the compatibility of Islamic and international law.

Cuba: On 29 January, the Secretary-General reported to the Commission that he had maintained continuing contacts with the Government of Cuba, in line with a 1989 resolution adopted on the report on the human rights situation there. (On 9 March 1989, the Commission welcomed Cuba's willingness to co-operate as to the issues and questions in the report.)

This year, the Commission adopted a resolution, by a vote of 19 to 12, with 12 abstentions, welcoming the Secretary-General's willingness to continue his ongoing contacts with the Cuban Government, and asking him to provide the results of those contacts to the Commission in 1991. Cuba was asked to guarantee that individuals who had attempted to present information to Commission representatives who had visited the country would not be subject to reprisals or detention.

UN Photo 175068

Commission members at work.

Cuba said the resolution reflected "the anti-Cuban and aggressive policies of the United States", which, if it was so concerned about human rights, would not have continually supported South Africa and Israel. It stressed that the human rights mission had come to Cuba at its Government's invitation, staying for 10 days instead of five, which again proved Cuba's willingness to co-operate with human rights bodies. Members of that mission saw whomever they wanted without hindrance and there had been no retaliatory measures. There might have been citizens who had contact with the mission who committed criminal offences and were punished for that but not for having had such contacts.

Other countries

The Commission wanted Albania to provide information in compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to respond to specific allegations regarding religious intolerance.

Albania, in a letter to the Commission, stated that nobody in that country "is given a sentence for purely religious reasons".

Stating its conviction that the "present Chilean democratic process and management by the Government-elect would make for the restoration of the rule of law based on full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms", the Commission decided not to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Chile, "as from the time the Government-elect takes office". (The new Government took office on 11 March.)

The Commission expressed serious concern at the increase in politically-motivated violations of human rights in El Salvador, and strongly appealed to the Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) to use the Secretary-General's good offices to achieve a negotiated political solution.

El Salvador said full enjoyment of human rights in the country would be difficult so long as war, carried out by the FMLN, persisted. The Government had a humanist conception of society and principles of human rights would continue to be reaffirmed.

The Commission Chairman was asked to appoint an independent expert to examine developments in the human rights situation in Haiti and to help devise measures capable of making the necessary improvements.

The Commission also adopted resolutions with regard to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Namibia and Western Sahara.

The Commission decided on a motion not to act on a draft concerning the situation in China. It was voted 17 to 15, with 11 abstentions. The draft would have endorsed the appeal of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for "clemency towards persons deprived of their liberty as a result of the events in June 1989".

China said the situation in Beijing and elsewhere in China was stable. Order and peace had been restored. Reform and an open policy had been carried out for over a decade. The Government would neither suspend nor retreat on reforms simply on account of the 4 June incident.

The Commission also rejected action on a text on the human rights situation in Iraq; the vote was 18 to 14, with 9 abstentions. By it, the Commission would have noted with satisfaction invitations to Sub-Commission members to visit Iraq to gather facts on the situation of human rights there. Iraq moved that the draft not be considered.

The Commission, considering Burma for the second time, encouraged authorities there to assure fundamental freedoms and implement their undertaking to organize free and fair multi-party democratic elections at the earliest. (Burma's name was changed to Myanmar on 18 June 1989.)

On 29 January 1990, Myanmar reported that general elections would be held on 27 May 1990.

Other action

The Commission called on Governments to allow unhampered contacts between private individuals and Commission representatives, and condemned acts of intimidation or reprisal in whatever form.

Governments were also called upon to give attention to the education of members of security and other armed forces, and of all law enforcement agencies, in the international law of human rights and of humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts.

The Commission appealed to States to ensure that persons under their jurisdiction could exercise their trade union rights freely and in full, and asked Governments to take immediate action to end existing violations of those rights. It welcomed the decision of its Sub-Commission to have a note prepared on methods by which a study on the problems of the environment and its relation to human rights could be made.

The Secretary-General was asked to organize in 1991 a technical conference on practical experience in the realization of sustainable and environmentally sound self-development by indigenous peoples.

'Just common sense'

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights now also speaks to children

By Elsa B. Endrst

Brazilian artist Otavio Roth says he considers the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be "the most incredible document produced by mankind".

Artist Roth

The historic document, celebrated as a major UN achievement, was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948. It declares that all human beings "are born free and equal in dignity and rights" and goes on to specify in its 30 articles specific areas of freedom. In December 1989, the Assembly went on to adopt a 54-article Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mr. Roth has worked long and hard to help spread the message of the Declaration around the world. First inspired to work on the document when he was an art student in London in 1977, it took him two years to complete a set of 60 x 80 centimetre prints, derived from woodcuts which the artist carved in reverse images on wooden blocks.

The linocut prints of these works, embossed on handmade paper, were purchased by the United Nations and subsequently exhibited in the UN Headquarters lobby in New York beginning in December 1982. Additional sets were acquired for both the UN Centre in Vienna and Geneva Headquarters.

Shortly after the first UN exhibition, Mr. Roth considered the possibility of adapting his illustrations in the form of a children's book.

He knew from the outset, he said, that the same kind of neutral human image he had created for the linocuts—faceless, genderless, rounded stick figures—had to be maintained. It had to be clear that he was not depicting specific nationalities, races or even individuals. "I was talking about mankind, because that is what the Declaration of Human Rights is all about", he says.

Mr. Roth collaborated with Brazilian writer of children's books, Ruth Rocha, on the children's version of the Declaration. First published in Portuguese in Brazil, it has gone through 15 editions, eventually becoming a best seller.

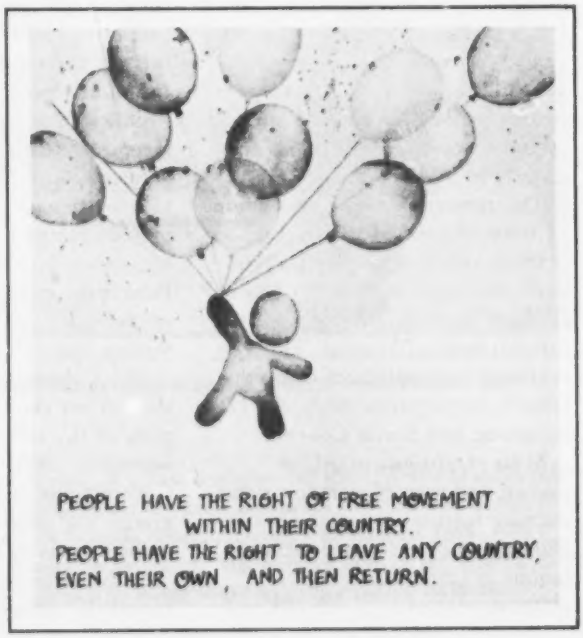
In celebration of the forty-first anniversary in 1989 of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations Publications has issued the volume in English. It will soon be available in French, Russian and Spanish.

Mr. Roth explains that the children's version does not cover all 30 articles because so many seemed too abstract for younger people. "But the book covers the essential concept of the Declaration", he says. "We were creating something new and it didn't make much sense just to translate the Declaration into easier language. It was important to make it interesting."

He recalls that during his collaboration with Mrs. Rocha, a sociologist who worked for many years in the field of education, she commented: "When you are trying to put down what the Declaration means in laymen's terms, it becomes so obvious that it appears to be just pure common sense. I can't believe that there are people on earth that don't know what is right and what is wrong. But even though it is so basic, it had to be put into 30 articles."

What does the artist hope for the future of this work? "I do hope the book gets published in as many languages as possible. I'll be happy if it serves its purpose", says the man who has spent 13 years of his life unselfishly promoting what he also considers to be "just common sense".

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, An Adaptation for Children", and another children's book by Mr. Roth—"Blue and Beautiful: Planet Earth Our Home"—based on the 1972 UN Declaration on the Human Environment, are available through UN Publications, Room DC2-0853, UN, NY 10017, and at the UN Bookstore in New York.


PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT OF FREE MOVEMENT WITHIN THEIR COUNTRY.
PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO LEAVE ANY COUNTRY, EVEN THEIR OWN, AND THEN RETURN.

Target: 30 per cent of leadership positions to women by 1995

TASS/O Ivanov

A target of 30 per cent of leadership positions to be held by women by 1995 in Governments, political parties, trade unions, professional and other representative groups was recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women at its 34th session (Vienna, 26 February-9 March). On average, only 3.5 per cent of national ministerial posts were held by women in 1987, according to a UN study.

The recommendation was among 22 texts adopted by the body, many of them aimed at accelerating the implementation of the 1985 Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Thirteen drafts recommended action by the Commission's parent body, the UN Economic and Social Council.

Mass campaigns to inform women and men of women's rights, training teachers on gender issues, elimination of sex-biased representations in textbooks by 1995, establishment of legal aid offices for women, penalties for violence against women in the family, the workplace and society, and special measures to increase the proportion of women involved in economic decision making and to remove all gender-related differences in adult literacy by the year 2000 were also recommmended.

Other subjects ranged from the increasing feminization of poverty, political participation and physical violence against detained women to preparation of a world conference on women in 1995, the situation of Palestinian and Central American women and international aid to Namibian women and children.

The Commission also proposed that 35 per cent of professional posts in the UN system go to women by 1995. The need for Governments to involve women's groups and other non-governmental organizations in their activities for the advancement of women was repeatedly stressed.

Female circumcision, AIDS discrimination to be monitored

The eradication of female circumcision and avoidance of discrimination against women victims of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) were the subjects of two general recommendations adopted at the ninth annual session (22 January-2 February, New York) of States Parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The 100 States Parties were asked to report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women—the 23-member body which monitors compliance with the instrument—on measures taken to eliminate female circumcision which, it stated, has "serious health and other consequences for women and children".

Female circumcision—excision of external female genital organs—is a traditional practice affecting some 75 million women and children in more than 20 African countries, as well as in some Asian countries. The Committee suggested making its eradication a matter of national public health policy. Media and education campaigns could also be organized, involving universities, medical or nursing associations, women's groups, politicians, and religious and community leaders.

The Committee also recommended intensified efforts to disseminate information to increase public awareness of the risks of AIDS and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and special attention to the rights and needs of women and children.

Proudly she stands: 'Woman Free'

By Elsa B. Endrst

Dedicated to the advancement of women, a 15-foot-tall marble statue—"Woman Free"—stands high above a reflecting pool and a lovely rose garden at the UN Centre in Vienna.

The work, created by British sculptor Edwina Sandys, started as a simple doodle on a paper napkin in the Russian Tea Room in New York City. "My inspiration usually comes from a deep well inside me", she says.

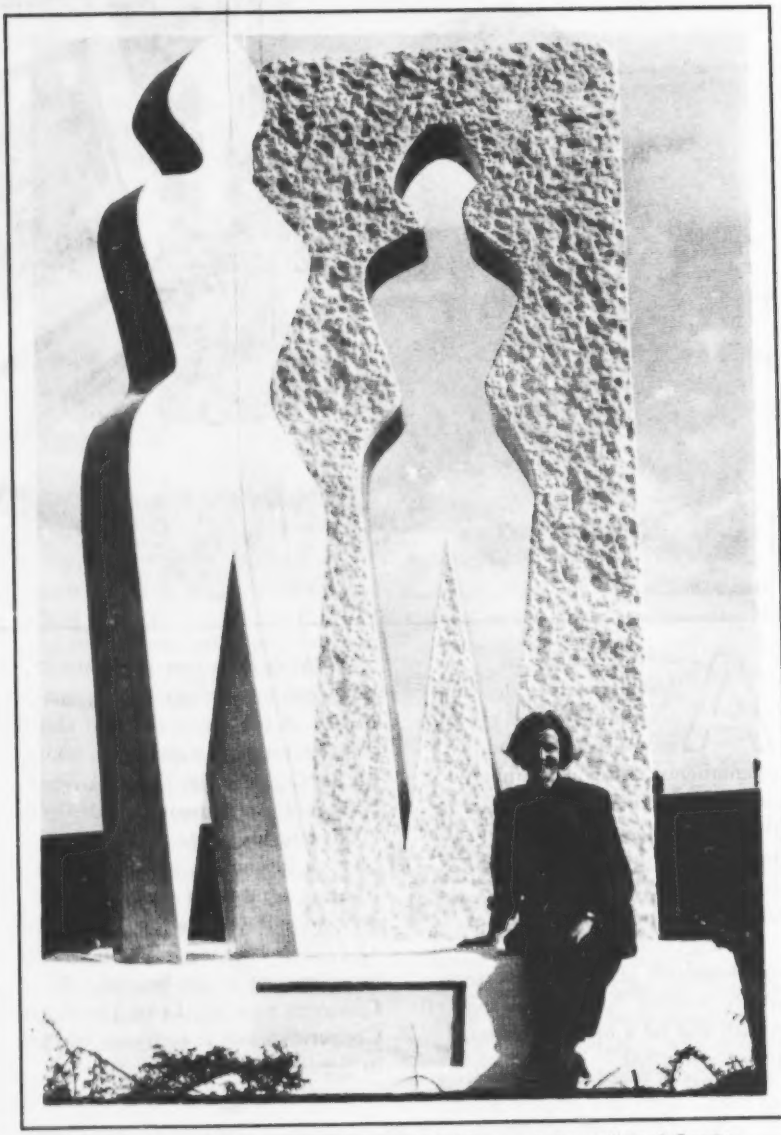
The slim, attractive artist is the granddaughter of the late Prime Minister of Great Britain Winston Churchill. She is the eldest child of Diana Churchill and Lord Duncan Sandys, a former British cabinet minister.

Among her internationally recognized works is one entitled "Child", created in commemoration of the International Year of the Child in 1979, and now on permanent display in front of the UN International School in Manhattan. Others include "Generations" and "Family", respectively ensconced at the UN Vienna Centre and at UN headquarters in Geneva.

Ms. Sandys almost single-handedly raised the money for the "Woman Free" statue by creating a gold pendant, an exact replica of the sculpture, and selling it to interested donors. The first 1,000 have their names inscribed at the base of the "Woman Free" sculpture, which was unveiled on the 1989 UN Day—24 October.

Shortly before the completion of "Woman Free", Annabelle Wiener, Director of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), asked Ms. Sandys to contribute a pastel drawing of the sculpture. It is the subject of a first day cover of the UN Postal Administration and also a limited edition art print issued on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the UN Vienna headquarters on 23 August 1989.

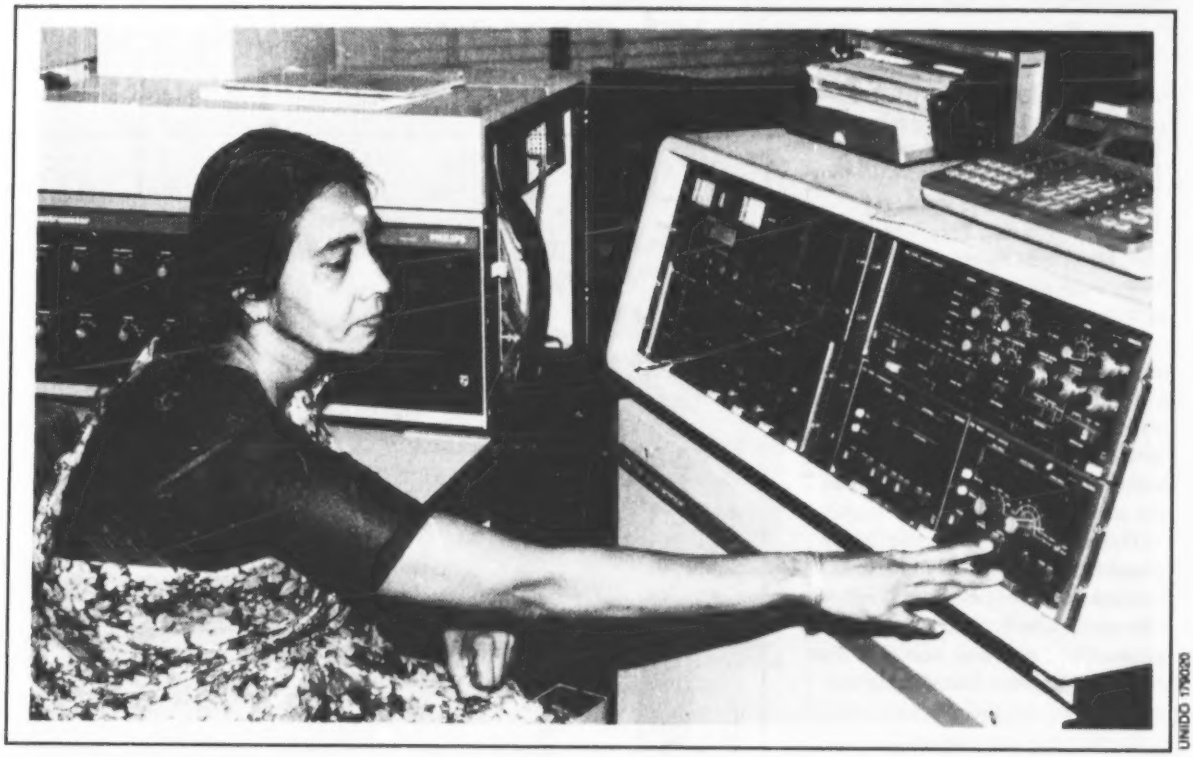
Married to an American architect, Ms. Sandys lives in the United States and says she feels as much at home there as in her native England.



Photo/R. Kaplan

Ms. Sandys with her sculpture at the Vienna International Centre.

Global economy, global challenge



UNIDO 176020

As intricate economic lifelines among the countries of the world multiply at breakneck speed, a phenomenon difficult to imagine only a generation ago, the international community is sharply focusing its attention on the global economy and its often hard, unyielding and chaotic realities.

At the United Nations, developments on three important fronts indicate that global economic health will be a top international priority in 1990.

▶ The General Assembly meets in a special session, scheduled from 23 to 28 April, to discuss how the global economy can best be managed. Preparations for the gathering during the first quarter of 1990 intensified, both at public meetings and behind-the-scenes consultations. The goal: obtaining the widest possible consensus on ways to build a stable, prosperous world economy.

▶ Work on a new international development strategy for the last decade of the century forged ahead. The Assembly is expected to adopt the Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (1991-2000) later this year.

▶ A 105-nation group finished drawing up a draft programme of action for the 1990s for the world's 42 poorest countries. The text will be submitted to the Second UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries when it convenes in Paris in September.

Growth in the 1980s: 'Uneven and lower'

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar told the preparatory meeting for the special session on world economy that its "primary objective" is to make per capita incomes in developing countries grow at least as fast as in developed countries.

With few exceptions, notably in South and East Asia, global economic growth in the 1980s had been "uneven and lower" than in the two previous decades, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar reported.

Many developing economies had failed to keep pace with increased population, many countries were paying less attention to human needs, and the number of the absolutely poor had increased, he added.

'To strive for consensus. . .'

At a five-day session (26 February-2 March), a preparatory committee open to all Member States approved a provisional agenda and work programme for the General Assembly's special session on international economic

co-operation. The focus of this eighteenth special session will be the "reactivation of economic growth and development in developing countries".

The preparatory committee suggested that delegations "strive for consensus on matters of substance". Until it meets again, for the third and last time in mid-April, the committee will continue informal discussions on a draft declaration to be adopted by the special session.

So far, two texts have been proposed: one submitted by Bolivia, on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries; the other by Canada.

Using the 'peace dividend'

The 57-point draft introduced by Bolivia on 2 March stresses that the "peace dividend"—resources released by disarmament—should be used to promote global economic growth and development.

A substantial increase in net resource flows to developing countries—a long-term rather than a short-term development approach—correction of fiscal deficits in the United States and other developed countries, and attainment of a 0.7 per cent official development assistance (ODA) target were also needed, it was stressed.

Other measures recommended would seek to reverse the deterioration of commodity prices, integrate Eastern European countries into the market-driven economy and find "a durable and comprehensive solution to the external debt crisis in the developing world".

Bethany Armstrong of Canada said that the "Group of 77" draft should have stronger references to population, human resources and environmental issues. It also should have provided a broader perspective on international economic integration and structural transformation.

The problems of developing countries should not be depicted in a North-South context, but should be placed in the context of an interdependent world, she said. Her country's proposal was not an alternative text, but rather contained ideas which should be taken into account when considering the "Group of 77" text.

Ireland's John O. Burke, speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that in several respects Community views on international economic co-operation diverged from those maintained by the "Group of 77".

The 12 Community member States believed that there should be "a decisive break with the failed policies of the past". A draft declaration should make it clear that developing countries were primarily responsible for their own development.

There also should be references to the role of democratic institutions, the relevance of market-oriented growth and the development of human resources to ensure the health, education and other infrastructural requirements of developing countries, Mr. Burke said.

Wang Baoliu of China stated that although the "Group of 77" proposal was very comprehensive, reference should be made to the unbalanced economic growth in the developed and developing world. This imbalance could be corrected by, among other things, lowering interest rates, regional integration and placing greater emphasis on multilateralism.

Strategy drafting takes off

The drafting of the strategy for the next decade will continue on 4 June at Headquarters. A fourth session of the committee working on the text is scheduled to end on 22 June.

At its third session (15 January and 19-23 March), the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade discussed and adopted a strategy outline recommended by the Assembly.

"The international trading system is likely to undergo important changes in the medium term", the Secretary-General predicted in a 21-page report to the *Ad Hoc* Committee *(A/AC.232/7)*.

"The outcome of the Uruguay Round, the implementation of an internal market in the European Community and economic reforms under way in China, Eastern Europe and the USSR may bring new patterns of international economic relations and accelerated growth", he stated.

Population issue 'squarely addressed'

Wider recognition of the role of the private sector is a new element in the draft programme of action for the 1990s for the world's least developed countries (LDCs), said John Sankey of the United Kingdom, Chairman of the intergovernmental group which approved the document on 6 April in Geneva. The Second Conference on LDCs will consider it in September in Paris.

The need for structural adjustment programmes, highly controversial 10 years ago, has now been accepted. The population issue, then also taboo, was squarely addressed. The importance of the role of women was emphasized to a much greater extent than in an earlier programme of action approved in 1981, Mr. Sankey told the press at the conclusion of a two-week meeting of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Africa's economic performance improving

WHO 19681/M. Senis

Training rural health officials in Kenya.

Africa's economic performance improved marginally in 1989, but was still not sufficient to reverse the persistent decline in living standards which has made the 1980s a "lost decade for the continent", according to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

In 1989, Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 2.9 per cent, compared with 2.4 per cent in 1988. But with population rising faster, average incomes fell by 0.3 per cent—little better than the minus 0.7 per cent fall in 1988.

ECA Executive-Secretary Adebayo Adedeji said in Addis Ababa on 15 January that 1989 would be most remembered as the closing year of Africa's lost decade of development opportunities. The 1980s had witnessed a rapid deterioration in social welfare, as well as disintegration of productive and infrastructural facilities. Ten years ago, the GDP per capita stood at $854; today, it is $565, he said.

Mr. Adedeji said that 1990 must be seen "as the year of challenge and opportunity". If the 1990s were not to become another lost decade, African Goverments must adopt new economic strategies that integrate immediate adjustment measures with long-term development goals.

Towards that end, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Development, adopted by African Governments in 1989, provides a "launching pad into the next decade and beyond".

That must be complemented by action in the international arena, Mr. Adedeji stated. "Without urgent and early resolution of the problems of commodity prices, debt overhang and resource flows, the prospects for growth in 1990, as in the rest of the decade, will remain as bleak as ever." The ECA estimates that Africa's GDP will grow by some 3 per cent in 1990—still below the rate of population increase. However, it feels that a significantly more favourable external environment could lead to faster growth.

Recovery linked to participation

In a message to the Conference on Popular Participation in the Process of Recovery and Development in Africa (12-16 February, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania), Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar pointed to the inescapable link between recovery and popular participation. He affirmed that development could only be sustained if its priorities were defined by the people and involved risks and sacrifices they could accept.

The UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, he said, remained an important framework for co-operation between Africa and the international community.

In the short and medium term, the Secretary-General stated, Africa would continue to require the support of the international community. "The continent needs to enter the 1990s with a clean slate, economically speaking, if it is to grasp the opportunities offered by the profound changes of the 1980s", he declared. In order to expeditiously diversify its national economies, larger markets needed to be created, additional resources needed to be invested in social and economic infrastructure, "and the page needs to be turned on its external indebtedness".

In the long run, however, the shape and content of Africa's recovery and development in the rest of this century and beyond must be determined by Africa itself and by "the vibrant cultures of its peoples".

The Conference, organized jointly by the UN Economic Commission for Africa and non-governmental organizations, identified the lack of participatory processes as the primary cause of Africa's unyielding, decade-long economic catastrophe. It called upon African peoples and Governments to urgently embark on a series of far-reaching changes in the structures, patterns and political context of decision-making at all levels of society.

The Conference adopted the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development Transformation (Arusha 1990), which declared that "there must be an opening up of political processes to accommodate freedom of opinion, tolerate differences ... and ensure the effective participation of the people and their organizations and associations in designing policies and programmes".

The Charter called on African Governments to "yield space to the people" while calling on the people to press for democratic participation and "to establish independent people's organizations that are genuinely grassroot, democratically administered and self-reliant".

The Charter urged that the attainment of equal rights by women in social, economic and political spheres must be a central feature of any democratic and participatory pattern of development. It defended the right of trade unions to strike, and called on the international community, including the UN, to "support indigenous efforts which promote the emergence of a democratic environment and facilitate the people's effective participation and improvement in the political life of their countries".

The Charter asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and other donors to accept and support African initiatives to conceptualize, formulate and implement endogenously designed development and transformation programmes.

UNHCR 19118

Distributing food in Ethiopia.

A Look Back. . . 25 years ago. . . 1965

UNITAR: A dynamic renaissance in the 1990s

In one of the most ambitious, innovative moves in its 25-year history, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is negotiating the opening of an international training centre for diplomats and other key government specialists in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States.

One proposal is the construction of a brand-new, state-of-the- art facility near Emory University, not far from the Carter Presidential Center and downtown Atlanta's bustling business district. A sizeable endowment fund is being sought for the project, which has strong support from Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, Georgia Governor Joe Frank Harris and influential members of the local academic and business communities.

Since it was founded in 1965, UNITAR has trained some 12,000 people from 173 countries, most of them diplomats and other officials from developing nations. In addition, some 23,000 have attended UNITAR research seminars and international conferences. The Institute's goal is to help these persons make better use of the UN and its agencies and better function in the increasingly complex arena of international affairs.

Since 1968, UNITAR has also issued more than 200 publications, most of them the product of research projects on subjects ranging from marine pollution and transfer of petrochemical technology to peace-making strategies, external debt management and the "brain drain" from developing to developed countries.

With the opening of its Atlanta center in mid-1991, UNITAR will become the first UN institution to have a substantial presence in the United States outside of New York City and Washington, D.C. An international conference on human rights, planned by UNITAR in cooperation with Emory, Tulane and other universities, is expected to kick off the inauguration events.

Mr. Doo Kingué

The Atlanta venture—along with fully booked and enthusiastically received seminars and workshops in New York and Geneva, and an upsurge of interest in UNITAR advisory services—all point to a possible renaissance of the Institute in the 1990s after years of financial tribulations.

"I'm optimistic about the future of UNITAR because we have products of quality, and it's that quality that has kept us in business in spite of everything", says Executive Director Michel Doo Kingué. A big man with a booming voice and a sharp, down-to-earth intellect, Mr. Doo Kingué, who is from the African republic of Cameroon, has no doubts that UNITAR will prevail.

For the most part, UNITAR survives from one year to the next by soliciting contributions from Governments. However, since 1980, the General Assembly has given UNITAR three grants to balance its budget and two loans, one of them to purchase the land on which the UNITAR building in New York stands on First Avenue near UN Headquarters.

Government contributions, although crucial for some administrative and programme purposes, account for about only a third at most of what the Institute actually spends. The rest is painstakingly raised, project by project, from other sources.

But such fund-raising successes, tied in to specific activities, do not solve the problem of how to fund the Institute's core budget—the one that provides the salaries of the small, dedicated staff in New York and Geneva and maintains the First Avenue premises.

"So I'm selling the building", Mr. Doo Kingué says. The stolid four-story stone structure was purchased 25 years ago with money donated by the Rockefeller Foundation. "The sale is a positive development because it will allow us to make a clean start."

Seven years ago, Mr. Doo Kingué was asked by UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to revitalize the Institute and make it financially healthy. "I inherited a number of financial problems. And Governments were then not helping much", he reflects.

Money from the building sale will be used to set up a reserve fund for the Institute—a financial safety net, a cushion against future crises. But Mr. Doo Kingué is quick to warn that the reserve fund in itself will not solve the Institute's financial problems. Only increased government contributions will do that.

The headquarters building in New York City will be sold.

whet an appetite for participation of private foundations and philantropists.

This year, the Institute will help Oman set up a school for diplomats, Angola re-structure its Foreign Affairs Ministry to better deal with free market economies, and Malta groom future multilateral negotiators.

The popular orientation courses for diplomats newly-arrived in New York will continue. In March, 57 participants from 40 different countries plunged into day-long role-playing exercises on the making of a resolution on development and the environment.

An intensive course for Security Council members and a workshop on negotiation of international legal instruments are among a dozen other current projects.

UNITAR's Geneva office will continue management training programmes in the areas of natural resources and environment, and debt and disaster relief programmes, particularly for African countries.

Several major research projects are ongoing, one on the economic and social history of the UN, another on the future of Latin America.

Half a dozen new research projects will be guided by retired high-level UN executives, who volunteer their time and experience to keep the Organization's institutional memory alive.

So Executive Director Doo Kingué and UNITAR supporters everywhere have good reason for the sense of optimism they now feel.

In 1987, the General Assembly asked the Institute to concentrate on training, placing research on the "back burner". Although abiding by that decision—no money was earmarked for research in the 1988 and 1989 austerity budgets—Mr. Doo Kingué says that ultimately training cannot be undertaken properly without research. If he can find extra-budgetary funds, the Assembly will certainly not object to UNITAR again flexing its analytical muscles.

He hopes that the Institute's new visibility in Atlanta will open up new opportunities for research on the UN in universities all over the United States and abroad, and will

UN Photo 101178

A typical UNITAR training seminar—this one on development and finance, held in 1967. The late Secretary-General U Thant is seated, *third from right.*

NEWS ALMANAC

World Summit for Children

Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Brian Mulroney of Canada will serve as co-chairmen of the World Summit for Children to be held at UN Headquarters on 29 and 30 September. The two leaders were elected on 19 March at a meeting of a 27-nation committee organizing the meeting, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar told the press on 8 February the "extraordinary meeting" should promote "commitment, at the highest political level, to goals and strategies for ensuring the survival, protection and development of children as key elements in the socio-economic development of human society".

In another sign of increased concern for children worldwide, representatives of 59 Governments signed on 26 January the Convention on the Rights of the Child at a ceremony held at UN Headquarters *(see photo above)*. The 54-article Convention was adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989.

Eastern European integration

Fuller integration of Eastern European countries into world trade dominated a two-week session (12-23 March) of the 131-member Trade and Development Board of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the first held since recent political and economic changes in that region. Protectionism and structural adjustment were two other major issues considered at the meeting, with the Board asking Governments to halt and reverse protectionism. A call for technological assistance, especially for developing nations, for the first time included Eastern European countries.

Security Council considers Cuban complaint

On 9 February, the Security Council considered a complaint by Cuba about an "armed attack" by the United States on 31 January on a Panama-registered merchant ship manned by Cuban nationals. The Council adjourned without a draft resolution having been tabled. Cuba said that the *Hermann* had been fired on with the "clear purpose of disabling and sinking" it. The United States said "there was reason to suspect the vessel was carrying narcotics or other contraband". Its Coast Guard had fired at the vessel in an attempt to disable it only after other means of stopping it had failed.

World Court acts on Guinea-Bissau, Senegal case

The International Court of Justice on 2 March dismissed by 14 votes to 1 the request of Guinea-Bissau for the indication of provisional measures in its dispute with Senegal. The case, instituted by Guinea-Bissau on 23 August 1989, concerned the status of a decision given by an arbitral tribunal in a dispute over the maritime delimitation between the two countries.

PEACE TAPESTRY: Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar *(right)* admires a tapestry depicting themes of peace and friendship given to the UN by Myanmar (formerly Burma). It was presented by Deputy Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw *(second from right)*, and will be displayed in the Security Council consultation room.

Education for all

Nearly 1,500 participants from 156 countries and some 200 organizations gathered in Jomtien, Thailand, from 5 to 9 March at the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs. Organized by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the UN Development Programme and the UN Children's Fund, the body adopted a World Declaration on Education for All and a "Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs" in the 1990s.

Nations of immigrants

There are more foreign-born persons in the United States than in any other country in the world—over 14 million. But the foreign-born are only 6.2 per cent of that country's total population. Among countries with a larger percentage of foreign-born are France (11 per cent), Côte d'Ivoire (22 per cent) and United Arab Emirates (63.9 per cent). This and data on 145 other nations appears in *World Migrant Populations: The Foreign-born*, a chart published by the Population Division of the UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

WMO Conference held in Geneva

The WMO Technical Conference on the Economic and Social Benefits of Meteorological and Hydrological Services was held in Geneva from 26 to 30 March 1990. It was attended by meteorologists, hydrologists, economists and engineers from national services, universities, private meteorological consulting firms and other institutions from all over the world. World Meteorological Day was observed on 23 March.

Population, environment issues considered

Ways of integrating population and environment considerations into policies and agendas of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were examined at a one-day conference held in Washington, D.C., on 25 January. Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, was a major speaker at the conference, which brought together United States Congressional staff members and representatives of NGOs and the United Nations. Sponsored by InterAction, an association of more than 100 NGOs, the National Audubon Society and the UN Non-Governmental Liason Service, the conference—"Population, Environment and Development: Making the Link, Finding the Balance"—featured presentations on four subject areas, followed by group workshops.

'FIGHT AIDS WORLDWIDE': American graffiti artist Keith Haring, who recently died of AIDS in New York City, donated many of his works to socially useful causes. Three drawings, including the above, entitled "Fight AIDS Worldwide", went to the World Federation of United Nations Associations. It appeared as a first day cover and limited edition lithograph accompanying a UN stamp on the global fight against AIDS.

Chronicle BookWatch

The World Economy: A Global Challenge

UN Department of Public Information (DPI)
New York, 1990. 118 pp.

Deserving the widest circulation, this concise, well-written and handsomely designed question-and-answer primer on the world economy and development does not avoid controversial subjects such as debt and structural adjustment. Glossaries of terms, as well as sections on the environment, energy, food security, women's status, population and the UN role, make it an indispensable guide to key international issues.

Fiscal Policy, Stabilization, and Growth in Developing Countries

Edited by Mario I. Blejer and Ke-young Chu
International Monetary Fund, Washington, D.C., 1989
387 pp., $22.50. ISBN 1-55775-034-3

With fiscal policy a critical element of IMF adjustment programmes in developing countries, this collection of 13 papers by Fund economists offers essential reading for students of the financial planning process. The analyses of issues such as savings, public debt, capital flight, exogenous shocks, and trade, as well as the case studies of Israel and the Philippines, underscore the interdependence of fiscal, monetary and external sector policies.

Hope & Folly: The United States and UNESCO, 1945-1985

William Preston, Jr., Edward S. Herman, Herbert I. Schiller
Institute for Media Analysis, New York, 1989
367 pp., $16.95. ISBN 0-8166-1789-9

In view of the United States Government's recent refusal to rejoin UNESCO, the appearance of *Hope & Folly* is timely. The authors develop a historical analysis of American-UNESCO relations and the controversy over the new world information and communication order. With the history of the UN and the specialized agencies still an underdeveloped area of scholarship, this book is a refreshing example of what can be done.

Multilateral Aspects of the Disarmament Debate

UN Department for Disarmament Affairs
Taylor & Francis, Bristol, Pennsylvania, 1989
204 pp., $39.50. ISBN 0-8448-1616-7

Participants in two UN-sponsored meetings of experts held in 1987 and 1988 in Dagomys, USSR, prepared the papers published in this useful book. The first considered "After Reykjavik: Planning for the Nineties", focusing on the reduction and elimination of conventional and nuclear weapons and on international security and outer space. At the second conference, the experts dealt with the verification of arms limitations and disarmament agreements. The success of the five-day meetings, which were designed to "facilitate free-ranging discussion and encourage a better mutual understanding of these sensitive political and technical issues," is suggested by the wide range of views the papers offer from the perspectives of East, West, North and South.

Yearbook on Human Rights for 1985

UN Publications, New York, 1989
158 pp., Sales No. E.88.XIV.4 ISBN 92-1-154069-0

Country developments in human rights and the work of supervisory bodies and UN organs during 1985 are reviewed in a pocket-sized paperback book whose usefulness would be even greater if resources were available for more timely publication.

Violence Against Women in the Family

Jane Frances Connors
Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Vienna
UN Publication, New York, 1989
120 pp., Sales No. E.89.IV.5 ISBN 92-1-130133-5

Violence against women is now a subject for analysis and action. "Women—over half the world's population, performing two thirds of its work, receiving one tenth of its income and owning less than one hundredth of its property—have been revealed as seriously deprived of basic human rights", Ms. Connors observes. Her well-crafted work, based on especially commissioned country case studies, as well as other literature, significantly advances research in this field.

Reviewed by:

Professor Harold Fruchtbaum, Columbia University, New York

UN Stamp Corner

On 4 May, the UN Postal Administration issued a set of six commemorative stamps on the theme "Medicinal Plants", in denominations of 25 and 90 United States cents, 0.90 and 1.40 Swiss francs, and 4.50 and 9.50 Austrian schillings. The theme relates to the role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in promoting industrial production of herbal medicines in developing countries as a low-cost, readily available alternative to more expensive, conventional products marketed in developed countries.

The stamps—a total of 5.2 million were printed by Helio Courvoisier, S.A., of Switzerland—measure 25.7 x 36 millimetres. The designs are based on illustrations from "Curtis's Botanical Magazine". The six plants shown are: Catharanthus roseus, Panax quinquefolium, Plumeria rubra, Cinchona officinalis, Bixa orellana and Momordica charantia.

UN stamps may be ordered from the UN Postal Administration, P.O. Box 5900, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-9992, United States.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. A. Title of publication: UN Chronicle
   B. Publication No. 647380
2. Date of filing: 5 February 1990
3. Frequency of issue: Quarterly
   A. No. of issues published annually: 4
   B. Annual subscription price: $14; two years, $26; three years, $37
4. Editorial office: Room DC1-530, United Nations, New York 10017
5. General business office: Room DC2-0853, United Nations, New York 10017
6. Publisher: Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York 10017
   Editor-in-Chief: Betty Flynn-Connors
7. Owner: United Nations, New York 10017
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None
9. The purpose, function and non-profit status of this Organization and the exempt status for Federal income purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months.
10. Extent and nature of circulation:

		Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Actual no. of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
A.	Total no. copies printed *(net press run)*	13,000	13,000
B.	Paid circulation		
	1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	3,112	3,112
	2. Mail subscriptions	7,200	7,200
C.	Total paid circulation *(sum of 10B1 and 10B2)*	10,312	10,312
D.	Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means, samples, complimentary and other free copies	1,879	1,879
E.	Total distribution *(Sum of C and D)*	12,191	12,191
F.	Copies not distributed		
	1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	809	809
	2. Returns from news agents	0	0
G.	Total *(Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A)*	13,000	13,000

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
    Thomas S. Hinds, Chief, UN Sales Section, UN Publications.

Coming Up. . .

A preview of some important United Nations conferences and events

July—September 1990

New York

2-13 July	*Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean
9 August	Special Committee against *Apartheid*: Special Meeting to observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia
13-31 August	Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
20-24 August	Consultative Committee on the UN Development Fund for Women, 28th session
12 September	States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 11th meeting
18 September	Opening of General Assembly, forty-fifth session

Geneva

2-6 July	UNCTAD—Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Least Developed Countries: Island Developing Countries
4-27 July	Economic and Social Council, second regular session
9-27 July	International Civil Service Commission, 32nd session; Human Rights Committee, 39th session
6-24 August	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 39th session
6-31 August	Commission on Human Rights—Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 42nd session
20 August-14 September	Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
27-28 August	Fourth United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine
27-31 August	Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories
29-31 August	Seventh United Nations International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine
24 September-2 October	World Intellectual Property Organization—Governing Bodies

Vienna

9-20 July	Group of Intergovernmental Experts to Study the Enhancement of the Efficiency of the United Nations Structure for Drug Abuse Control, 2nd session
23 July-3 August	Group of Intergovernmental Experts to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs, 2nd session
12 September	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—Board of Governors
17-21 September	IAEA—General Conference

Other Locations

27 August-7 September	Eighth UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba
3-14 September	Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris
13-16 September	IFAD—Executive Board, 40th session, Rome
25-27 September	World Bank/IMF—Annual meetings of the Boards of Governors, Washington, D.C.
September/October	UNESCO—Executive Board, 135th session, Paris

Know

the

facts

Get the

UN

Chronicle

Quarterly

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE U.S.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 00459 NEW YORK N.Y.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

United Nations Publications
Room DC2-868 · Dept. 505
United Nations, NY 10164-0512

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE U.S.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 00459 NEW YORK N.Y.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

United Nations Publications
Room DC2-868 · Dept. 505
United Nations, NY 10164-0512

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE U.S.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 00459 NEW YORK N.Y.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

United Nations Publications
Room DC2-868 · Dept. 505
United Nations, NY 10164-0512

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
UN CHRONICLE

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

New Subscriptions will begin 1 January 1990

☐ 1 Yr. $14.00 ☐ 2 Yrs. $26.00 ☐ 3 Yrs. $37.00

☐ Payment enclosed Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Acct. No._____Exp._____ Date_____

Minimum for a charge order $15.00
If not charged, payment must accompany the order

MAKE ME AN INFORMED WORLD CITIZEN

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
UN CHRONICLE

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

New Subscriptions will begin 1 January 1990

☐ 1 Yr. $14.00 ☐ 2 Yrs. $26.00 ☐ 3 Yrs. $37.00

☐ Payment enclosed Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Acct. No._____Exp._____ Date_____

Minimum for a charge order $15.00
If not charged, payment must accompany the order

MAKE ME AN INFORMED WORLD CITIZEN

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
UN CHRONICLE

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

New Subscriptions will begin 1 January 1990

☐ 1 Yr. $14.00 ☐ 2 Yrs. $26.00 ☐ 3 Yrs. $37.00

☐ Payment enclosed Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Acct. No._____Exp._____ Date_____

Minimum for a charge order $15.00
If not charged, payment must accompany the order

MAKE ME AN INFORMED WORLD CITIZEN

The U N

Chronicle

A quarterly magazine that reports on:

- **Namibia**
- **Arms Control & Reduction**
- **Iran - Iraq**
- **World Economy**
- **Afghanistan**
- **Human Rights**
- **Environment**
- **Development**
- **and more...**

The UN Chronicle required reading for people who want to understand what's happening in the world today.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Membership of Principal United Nations Organs in 1990

General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all 160 United Nations Member States:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, *Argentina, *Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, *Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, *Bolivia, Botswana, *Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, *Byelorussian SSR, Cambodia, Cameroon, *Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, *Chile, *China, *Colombia, Comoros, Congo, *Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, *Cuba, Cyprus, *Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, *Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, *Dominican Republic, *Ecuador, *Egypt, *El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, *Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, *France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, *Greece, Grenada, *Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, *Haiti, *Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, *India, Indonesia, *Iran, *Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, *Lebanon, Lesotho, *Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, *Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, *Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, †Namibia, Nepal, *Netherlands, *New Zealand, *Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, *Norway, Oman, Pakistan, *Panama, Papua New Guinea, *Paraguay, *Peru, *Philippines, *Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, *Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, *South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, *Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, *Turkey, Uganda, *Ukrainian SSR, *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, *United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, *United States, *Uruguay, Vanuatu, *Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, *Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Founding Member
†Became 160th Member State on 23 April.

Security Council

The Security Council has 15 members. The Charter has designated five States as permanent members, and the General Assembly elects 10 other members for two-year terms. The term of office of each non-permanent member of the Council ends on 31 December of the year indicated in parentheses below.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States.

The 10 non-permanent members of the Security Council in 1990 are: Canada (1990), Colombia (1990), Côte d'Ivoire (1991), Cuba (1991), Democratic Yemen (1991), Ethiopia (1990), Finland (1990), Malaysia (1990), Romania (1991) and Zaire (1991).

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council has 54 members elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly. The term of office for each member expires on 31 December of the year indicated in parentheses below. In 1990, the Council is composed of the following 54 States:

Algeria (1992), Bahamas (1991), Bahrain (1992), Brazil (1991), Bulgaria (1992), Burkina Faso (1992), Cameroon (1991), Canada (1992), China (1992), Colombia (1990), Cuba (1990), Czechoslovakia (1991), Ecuador (1992), Finland (1992), France (1990), German Democratic Republic (1992), Germany Federal Republic of (1990), Ghana (1990), Greece (1990), Guinea (1990), India (1990), Indonesia (1991), Iran (1992), Iraq (1991), Ireland (1990), Italy (1991), Jamaica (1992), Japan (1990), Jordan (1991), Kenya (1991), Lesotho (1990), Liberia (1990), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (1990), Mexico (1992), Netherlands (1991), New Zealand (1991), Nicaragua (1991), Niger (1991), Pakistan (1992), Portugal (1990), Rwanda (1992), Saudi Arabia (1990), Sweden (1992), Thailand (1991), Trinidad and Tobago (1990), Tunisia (1991) Ukrainian SSR (1991), USSR (1992), United Kingdom (1992), United States (1991), Venezuela (1990), Yugoslavia (1990), Zaire (1992), Zambia (1991).

Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council has five members. One member, the United States, administers the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The non-administering members—China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom—are the other four permanent members of the Security Council. China does not participate in the work of the Trusteeship Council.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice has 15 members, elected by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. Judges hold nine-year terms, which end on 5 February of the year indicated in parentheses below.

The Judges, listed in their official order of precedence, are:

Jose María Ruda of Argentina (1991), President; Kéba Mbaye of Senegal (1991), Vice-President; Manfred Lachs of Poland (1994), Taslim Olawale Elias of Nigeria (1994), Shigeru Oda of Japan (1994), Roberto Ago of Italy (1997), Stephen M. Schwebel of the United States (1997), Sir Robert Y. Jennings of the United Kingdom (1991), Mohammed Bedjaoui of Algeria (1997), Ni Zhengyu of China (1994), Jens Evensen of Norway (1994), Nikolai K. Tarassov of the USSR (1997), Gilbert Guillaume of France (1991), Mohamed Shahabuddeen of Guyana (1997), Raghunandan Swarup Pathak of India (1991) (elected 18 April 1989 to fill unexpired term of Nagendra Singh of India).

Courtesy of UN Chronicle